

Hafa Adai!

Man pleads guilty to suffocating girlfriend. **PAGE 2**

PIC's Licerio wins 2017 Duck Race. **PAGE 4**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 25

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2017

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢



15 complete third cycle of PCF

By DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO
demalynn.sablan@gmail.com
REPORTER

Members of the third cycle of the Pacific Century Fel-

lows capped their nine-month program last Saturday with a graduation night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

The 15 graduates were added to the 30 other PCF Fellows, as they are usually called, who are mostly young leaders committed to creating

solution for the challenges the CNMI is facing today.

In his message to the new batch of PCF Fellows, PCF
See PCF on Page 4

Pacific Century Fellows vice chair Alex Sablan, far left, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, Gov. Ralph Torres, and PCF chair Jerry Tan join the PCF graduates in a group photo at the 3rd cycle PCF graduation ceremony at Fiesta Resort & Spa on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017.

DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO

Answers sought to cut wait-times

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Responding to Marianas Visitors Authority concerns about long immigration wait-times at the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport, the Office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) assured the agency

that several measures are being looked at to expedite the process.

In an earlier interview, MVA had expressed belief that the long wait-time could possibly be due to the shortage of manpower at the Customs and Border Protection unit.

According to MVA, CBP

officials informed them that a manpower cap was imposed on CBP by Congress, limiting the number of CBP employees for the CNMI to 20.

Sablan's letter denied that claim.

According to the letter, dated Feb. 3, 2017, and addressed to MVA chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, Sablan said he himself has met with CBP officials

in Washington, D.C. and discussed CBP resources with the Congressional Research Service.

"Both CBP and CRS report to me that the statement [MVA] asked about is not true. There is no cap set by Congress on the number of CBP officers who can be assigned to Saipan," Sablan wrote.

"For security reasons CBP

does not disclose the specific number of officers assigned at any port of entry. CBP has told me that the number [20], which has been widely reported in the media as the number of officers in the Marianas, is not accurate," he added.

Sablan clarified in the letter

See ANSWERS on Page 4

Hawaii bill would legalize prostitution industry

BY CATHY BUSSEWITZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii lawmakers are considering decriminalizing prostitution in the state after the speaker of the House introduced a bill that would also legalize buy-

ing sex and acting as a pimp.

The proposal also would end a state law that says police officers cannot have sex with prostitutes in the course of investigations.

Transgender activist Tracy Ryan said she is trying to convince state lawmakers to pass

the bill because transgender women are overrepresented in the sex trade and therefore disproportionately affected by criminalization laws.

House Speaker Joseph Souki said in an interview that he does not have a position on the bill and he introduced it as a

favor for Ryan.

"I don't like seeing people sent to jail that don't belong there," Ryan said.

But long-time anti-sex trafficking advocate Kathryn Xian said legalizing the selling, promoting or buying of sex would make it harder to police the industry.

"If this bill passes and ev-

everything was no crime whatsoever, then abuses against women and children would just shoot through the freaking roof," Xian said. "It would be exponentially harder to prove violence in the industry. It would be almost impossible to prove any sort of labor abuse." Asked about the part of the bill that strikes language pre-

venting police from having sex with prostitutes during investigations, Souki said: "No, again I have nothing to say about the bill."

Hawaii has an unusual history with prostitution investigations. Until 2014, it was legal for police officers to have sex with prostitutes as part of

See HAWAII on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada declares "Counselor's Week."

PAGE 15



NATION

The government suspends President Donald Trump's refugee and immigration ban.

PAGE 16



ASIA

Jim Mattis finds that in Japan and South Korea his experience in uniform is an asset.

PAGE 17



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Man pleads guilty to suffocating girlfriend

A man who allegedly beat up his girlfriend and threatened to kill her and her 2-year-old son pleaded guilty in court last week.

Lawson Santiago Renguul Jr., 26, pleaded guilty to three counts of assault and battery-domestic violence and one count of unlawful contact as part of a plea deal. He will be sentenced on May 31, 2017.

The Office of the Attorney General first charged Renguul last Aug. 31 with six charges that carried a maximum sentence of nine years imprisonment. The following day, the OAG amended the charges to eight, which carried a total maximum sentence of 25 years imprisonment. On the same day, Sept. 1, the OAG again amended the charges

to seven, which carried a total maximum sentence of 15 years.

Last Wednesday, the OAG amended the charges anew to four, which carry a total maximum sentence of four years in prison. On the same day, Wednesday, the OAG amended the charges to four to reflect that count 4 assault and battery-domestic violence is a lesser-included offense for the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. The charges still carry a maximum sentence of four years.

Renguul allegedly dragged, choked his girlfriend, suffocated her with a pillow, and threatened her son's and her life at their apartment on Capital Hill. Renguul has no prior convictions.

After the hearing, he was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections pending his sentencing.

Renguul brandished and struck the victim in the stomach with a knife during their argument on Aug. 2, 2016, on Saipan. On Aug. 18, 2016, he placed the victim in a head-lock.

Renguul was arrested on Aug. 19, 2016. He was later released, as police were still doing further investigation.

After his release on Aug. 20, Renguul went to the victim's home, located the victim in her vehicle, jumped on the hood, and threatened to cause her injury. Renguul entered the vehicle and removed her son from the vehicle against her will and while she was on

the phone with the police.

Renguul attempted to communicate to the victim with the intent of encouraging her to drop the charges, or not cooperate with the investigation or prosecution of the case.

Police detective Vincent A. Igisaia stated in his report that he heard the shouting and screaming as the victim remained on the phone. The detective immediately reported the matter to the Department of Public Safety's Central. Two officers responded and arrested Renguul on Aug. 20, 2016, at 2:10pm.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub represented the government. Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for Renguul. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Man allegedly chokes wife, threatens to kill her

Accusations that she is having an affair led a 44-year-old man to allegedly choke his wife, point a crowbar to her, and threaten to kill her in Susupe last week.

Jose Sangalang Mangundayao was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at \$5,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Feb. 9 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Mangundayao. Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley appeared for the government.

Two police officers re-

sponded to reported domestic violence call at a poker arcade on Texas Road in Susupe last Monday, Jan. 30, at 7:49pm. The victim was reportedly shaking and crying as she approached the police vehicle near LJ Store.

Police arrested Mangundayao that same night.

The victim told police that Mangundayao took a crowbar, pointed it at her, threatened to kill her with it, and strangled her. She bruised her left arm during the struggle. He allegedly hit their TV with the crowbar. She managed to run outside, where she called the police. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



COURTESY VISIT

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth left, meets with leaders of the Red Cross Pacific Islands Region and the local association after they paid a courtesy visit last week at the Governor's Office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Certified prosthetist here for limited time

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., in collaboration with Eucon Medical Services, has invited a certified prosthetist, Marc Kaufman, to Saipan from Feb. 20 to Feb. 23. Kaufman will be on island to help people who had amputations as well as provide education for the prevention of amputations.

A certified prosthetist helps individuals who have had amputations and are in need of an artificial arm or leg or diabetic shoes. Diabetic shoes are specially designed shoes, or shoe inserts, intended to reduce the risk of skin breakdown in diabetics with pre-existing foot disease.

We would like to invite those in the community who:

- 1) need an artificial arm or leg after amputation
- 2) has diabetes and have

callouses or are unable to feel parts of their feet

3) has an artificial leg or arm that they are unable to wear due to cracks in the artificial leg or arm or because of poor fitting.

To make an appointment or if you have questions, contact physical therapist Pam Carhill or Lei Hicaro at Eucon Medical Health Services by Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017. They will be able to provide information regarding what you need from your medical provider (doctor, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner) and about insurance coverage.

People may schedule appointments to see Kaufman for amputation care by calling between 8:30am and 6:30pm, Monday to Friday at (670) 233-3647 or email Carhill at swim-saipan@yahoo.com. **(PR)**



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.



IRONMAN 70.3 SAIPAN

March 11, 2017

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is expanding its repertoire of annual signature events to include Ironman 70.3 Saipan, slated for March 11, 2017. The deadline to register is Feb. 20, 2017.

An Ironman 70.3 is one of a series of long distance triathlon races organized by the World Triathlon Corporation. Half the length of an Ironman, Ironman 70.3 features a 1.2-mile (1.9 km) swim, a 56-mile (90 km) bike ride, and a 13.1-mile (21.1 km) run. Ironman 70.3 Saipan will also offer 30 age qualifying slots for the 2017 Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Chattanooga, TN.

In organizing the event, MVA is once again partnering with Kiyokazu Fitness Club (KFC) and KFC President Kiyokazu Onishi, who helped bring the Tinian Turquoise Blue and Rota Blue Triathlon to the Marianas.

In addition to Ironman 70.3 Saipan, the MVA will still hold the XTERRA Saipan Championship on March 18, the 12th Saipan Marathon on March 25, and Tagaman later in 2017.

IRONMAN®

70.3 SAIPAN



www.mymarianas.com

Murphy awarded \$480 in fees

The federal court has awarded U.S. Army Ranger veteran Paul A. Murphy only \$480 in fees and not \$1,886 as he had requested after winning in his lawsuit against Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson to stop them from enforcing the Commonwealth's Weapons Act and the newly enacted Special Act for Firearms and Enforcement.

In an order last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona awarded Murphy \$430 for clerk's fees and \$50 for service fees.

The government is liable to pay the fees.

In his bill of costs filed in court, Murphy said he spent \$1,046.06 for "other costs" and \$840 for the fees of the clerk, fees for service of summons and subpoenas, and fees and disbursement for printing.

In itemizing the "other costs," Murphy said he lost 32 hours at \$18.58 per hour, for a total of \$594.56 in annual leave/time for case related issues and hearings.

He said he paid \$201.50 in fees related to firearms applications and \$250 for his flight to Guam so he could place his firearm in the Guam DPS Armory.

In her order, Manglona awarded Murphy \$430 for fees of the clerk, and fees and disbursements for printing.

Manglona granted Murphy \$50 in fees for serving summons.

Manglona did not award Murphy costs for lost annual leave time. She also denied his request for costs of his firearm applications and roundtrip flight to Guam to deposit his firearms with Guam DPS.

Manglona said applications of any sort and travel expenses do not fall within any of the six

categories of fees that a federal court has the authority to pay.

In an order last Sept. 28, Manglona awarded costs to Murphy for bringing the lawsuit and ordered him to file itemized costs that he expended in filing the case.

Manglona, however, denied Murphy's request for legal fees. As a pro se plaintiff he is not entitled to an award of attorney's fees in a civil rights action.

In that same Sept. 28 ruling, Manglona declared unconstitutional the \$1,000 excise tax on pistols and several provisions that the CNMI imposed under

the newly enacted SAFE.

Manglona's ruling favored most of the challenges that Murphy raised in his lawsuit that challenged certain provisions of the Commonwealth's Weapons Control Act and SAFE.

A teacher, Murphy filed the lawsuit pro se or without a lawyer.

out a lawyer.

Manglona said the plaintiff has valiantly pursued all lawful efforts to protect and defend his rights in a community where the voice of the majority can often overpower the equally important rights of the minority. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

DPA CAR MART

WEEKLY SHIPMENT OF QUALITY PRE-OWNED VEHICLE FROM U.S. MAINLAND



We accept special order, name it and will bring it here!
DOWN PAYMENT AS LOW AS \$1,000.00
Call 287-8688/235-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio
www.dpacarmart.com

"A Tradition of Excellence!"

Marianas Eye Institute proudly welcome renowned eye surgeon, Dr. Dennis Williams, who has moved to Saipan to serve you and your families alongside Dr. Robertson. The tradition of excellence continues!

- Listed in "Best Doctors in America"
- Board Certified Ophthalmologist

Prior Experience:

- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery, St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

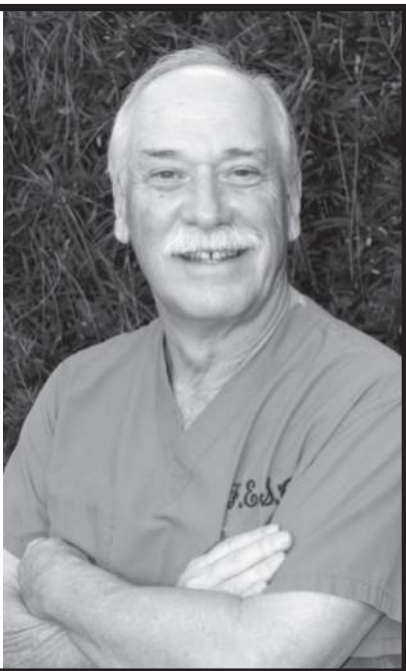
We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!



Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090

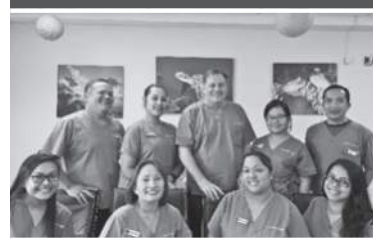
Walk-in's welcome
Beach Road Garapan.



ATTENTION Government Employees & Retirees!

The Island Smiles Discount Dental Plan available via your allotment

- **Low Cost:** \$5.00 (Individual Plan) \$6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or \$7.00 (Family Plan) per allotment. Least expensive dental plan in the CNMI
- **Members receive** at LEAST 20%-50% discounts on all dental procedures, including cosmetic dentistry
- **Plan Provider:** Paradise Dental Center. State-of-the-art general and cosmetic dental clinic. Newest dental clinic and most experienced dentist in the CNMI. No long wait times.



Award-winning dentist
Kind and Gentle

Dr. Nelson Krum

Paradise Dental Center



Hawaii Dental Service, TakeCare & Staywell Insurances
also accepted. Medicaid and walk-in patients welcome!

Call 234-4040

Middle Road, Gualo Rai, across Chong's

Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com

Veterans, military service members, their families, and friends are invited to —

The 1st Northern Marianas Veterans Resource Fair 2017

hosted by

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

SAIPAN— February 22, Multipurpose Center, 1pm—7pm

TINIAN— February 23, NMC Instructional Site, 10am— 4pm

ROTA— February 24, Rota Resort, 10am—4pm



EXHIBITORS INCLUDE:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Choice Providers

NMI Government, Nonprofit, and Private Institutions
Learn more about VA healthcare and benefits, and community programs in wellness, education, employment, housing, disability assistance, counseling, social support, and more.

Contact your congressional office at 323-2647 (Saipan), 433-2647 (Tinian), or 532-2647 (Rota) or email Kilili@mail.house.gov for more information.

Licerio wins 2017 Duck Race

By DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO
demalynn.sablan@gmail.com
REPORTER

Mary Jane Licerio bought tickets worth three ducks for the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's

9th Annual PIC Duck Race for Cancer last Saturday, but went home \$2,000 richer when one

of her ducks won first place.

Some 2,500 ducks raced on the Lazy River of PIC, but

only four ducks made it to the finish line for a winning prize.

Kanae Quinn's duck swam in second for \$300, while third place was Joyce Santos' duck, grabbing \$200. Carmen Ann Muna's duck came in fourth place, winning \$50.

"When you purchase a duck, you're contributing to the proceeds that will be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association during the March Against Cancer this year," said PIC Sports, Entertainment and Activities di-

rector Brad Ruszala. "This is my first time coordinating the event and we had a great turnout. It was fun and I couldn't have done it without the great help of the PIC team. This is an event that I hope will strive and continue because it is really helping a good cause."

Licerio works for the F&B department of PIC. "I can't believe I won. I did not expect it. I was only trying to help a good cause. But I am blessed and grateful for my little duck," said Licerio.



ERWIN ENCINARES

Winner of the 9th Annual PIC Duck Race for Cancer Mary Jane Licerio poses with her super-sized ceremonial \$2,500 check yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

HAWAII

From Page 1

investigations, but state lawmakers changed that after The Associated Press highlighted the loophole in a story.

The Honolulu Police Department did not immediately respond to a telephone message seeking comment about the bill.

Ryan wants to preserve the law preventing police from having sex with prostitutes to arrest them if the bill does not pass, but "if they can't arrest them anyway because it's no longer illegal, it's a moot point," she said.

Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney Keith Kaneshiro said the bill would make it harder to address global sex trafficking because "it would be more difficult to find the bad actors, more difficult to get witnesses to make cases."

Michael Golojuch Jr., chairman of the LGBT caucus of



AP

Tracy Ryan, a transgender activist, talks about why she's pushing a bill to legalize prostitution on Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, at the state Capitol in Honolulu.

the Democratic Party of Hawaii, said transgender women are overrepresented compared with other women in the sex trade because the discrimination they face leads some to feel it's the only kind of work they can get.

Golojuch personally supports the idea of decriminalizing prostitution, but he

said he and the caucus had not yet taken an official position on the bill.

"My dream job would be union organizer for consensual sex workers," Golojuch said. "It would be great for people who want to do that work to unionize them and empower them so that they are taken care of."

Not everyone thinks legalizing prostitution would benefit sex workers.

"By normalizing sexual exploitation and recasting it as a career choice that has no harms attached, we're creating a setting and a system where we are OK with objectifying women, where we're OK with buying other human beings' bodies, and that has effects that are far-reaching in terms of how women are treated," said Khara Jabola, chapter coordinator of Af3irm Hawaii, a feminist group.

The bill and another to decriminalize marijuana may be part of a push to reduce the prison population, House Majority Leader Scott Saiki said.

But any decriminalization bills are unlikely to pass before the Legislature gets a report from a working group that has been meeting on the topic. That report isn't expected before the session ends, Saiki said.

ANSWERS

From Page 1

that annual funding level for CBP is set by Congress and in turn limits the number of CBP officers the agency can deploy nationwide.

Sablan also added that Congress has been increasing funding for officers in recognition of the need to speed processing at ports everywhere.

"CBP allocates these funds, using a staffing model based on the number of visitors ar-

riving at each port of entry and related factors, to determine how many officers are assigned at each location," wrote Sablan.

Sablan did admit, that the number of officers on station is below the budgeted level.

"For that reason, screenings may have slowed and may have contributed to the concern voiced in your letter," he said.

Sablan said that, according to the CBP itself, wait-times varied from 5 minutes to 49 minutes.

Possible solutions

Sablan also mentioned in his letter possible solutions.

"Among the ideas worth considering is managing the arrival of aircrafts so that CBP may make most efficient use of its officers. Expediting the hiring of CBP staff, offering incentives for Saipan postings, and putting more focus on local hires in the Marianas are certainly to be encouraged," said Sablan.

Sablan believes that measures imposed on visitors prior to arrival are a viable option.

"Prescreening visitors in their home country either in person or electronically, when they schedule their travel and/or before allowing them to board, reduces wait-times."

According to Sablan, deplaning passengers from China attempting to enter the CNMI under parole takes about 110 seconds on average to process, whereas a passenger prescreened prior to departure using the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, or ESTA, requires about 25 seconds

upon arrival.

MVA has expressed budget concerns about utilizing ESTA, which was proposed by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam).

Another means of prescreening is the presentation of a visa, which Sablan thinks could be harmful more than helpful by reducing the number of tourists who are allowed to enter the Marianas. It does, however, improve immigration lines for tourists.

Sablan said he is open to

discuss the matter in person with government agencies.

"I would like to invite the Marianas Visitors Authority and other relevant parties—the Commonwealth Ports Authority, airlines, Customs and Border Protection, and others in the tourism economy—to meet with me at the Saipan congressional office in the near future to establish a common understanding of the facts and to discuss what each can do to better the visitor experience." *See full letter on Page 11.*

PCF

From Page 1

vice chair Alex Sablan expressed hope that their experiences with the program will give the new graduates a greater appreciation for the issues affecting the CNMI and the Pacific region.

"We have created a 'think tank' of alumni to collaborate together to tackle issues affecting our community. We now have 45 solution-driven alumni in our Marianas chapter," said

Sablan also read the remarks of former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann, who started the PCF program in Hawaii, as he was not able to make it to this year's ceremony. Hannemann, who congratulated the graduates, told them that being in PCF means they have taken on a lifetime commitment of being a mentor to one another.

One of the new PCF Fellows, Janice Castro of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, said she learned a lot from joining PCF.

"The biggest takeaway, as far as career [is concerned], is learning about the developments in Waikiki. About the infrastructure needs and how they are trying to address employment and tourism. Tourism is one of their main economy drivers, just like here. They deal with double what we deal with because they are a bigger place. With new development happening, PCF taught me that it is all about learning to balance, taking care of our economy, but most importantly, taking care of our people. They come first. With

more tourists coming and using our...resources, it is important for us to go out into the community and educate others about maintaining the beauty of our island," said Castro.

Another PCF Fellow, Brad Ruszala, gave the welcoming remarks. He said that being a PCF graduate is only the beginning of great responsibilities. "We will use our partnerships that we gained through this program with our operations and our coworkers at every level," Ruszala said.

Alexis Cabrera of Imperial Pacific said: "The greatest thing about PCF is the networking. When you bond with your fellow classmates, you know that when you need someone, when you need help in a community project, the ease is in the fact that we have made connections with people of the community who will be there to help you."

PCF chair Jerry Tan said his biggest reason for doing the program is to help others with networking.

"We try to broaden their exposures. It is the people who make the islands a great place. PCF helps nurture and grow brighter, young future leaders. I would like to thank the employers and families of our graduates for making them take time off to do this program," Tan said.

PCF is now accepting applications for the 4th cycle. Applications can be picked up at the PCF Marianas Chapter Office on the second floor of the JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan. You can also download the application form at www.pcf-marianas.com. Deadline for applications is on Feb. 17.

Saipan hosts first package inspection training

The National Conference on Weights and Measures Associate Membership Committee recently sponsored a training on Saipan that could save consumers millions of dollars each year when purchasing packaged goods.

Twenty-five weights and measures inspectors from Saipan Tinian, Rota, Guam, Palau, Chuuk, and the Marshall Islands gathered on Saipan for training on how to perform inspections using the procedures in NIST Handbook 133, *Checking the Net Contents of Packaged Goods* as adopted by the NCWM.

NCWM is a national association dedicated to developing and promoting uniform United States weights and measures standards for commerce.

NCWM's associate members each contribute \$15 as part of their membership dues. The Associate Membership Committee controls how the fund is used to support the mission of NCWM, including sponsorship of training events like the one on Saipan.

The CNMI requested funding assistance to bring an expert trainer to Saipan for the five-day course.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reported an estimated \$3 million in annual losses for consumers due to inaccurate package contents that are imported to the region through the Saipan seaport.

He said this training class was the first opportunity to train stakeholders in that region of the world on U.S. standards, test procedures and proper equipment to verify net quantity of packaged goods.

Brett Gurney, Weights and Measures program manager at the Utah Department of Agriculture, provided the training.

Gurney was able to take his expertise and share it with an entire region that is developing package inspections for the first time in their history.

"I was honored and excited to be part of something that may have a huge impact for the Micronesian region of the world," said Gurney. "Not everyone in the weights and measures profession gets a chance to make such a positive impact on so many people. I was met by a motivated group of people who were excited to learn."

Gurney saw the opportunity as a huge success and very important to the region where most consumer prod-

ucts are imported from other parts of the world.

He expressed appreciation to NCWM, the Associate

Membership Committee, the Utah Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Standards and Technology

for working together to make the training possible. He also expressed great appreciation for his host on Saipan and the

very eager and attentive participants from the region.

NCWM is a professional nonprofit association of state

and local weights and measures officials, federal agencies, manufacturers, retailers and consumers. (PRWeb)



KIA DRIVES TO SURPRISE



2017 KIA SOUL
Totally transformed
More fun to drive, more advanced technology, more surprises. We've packed almost everything into the 2017 Soul. Discover what's inside for yourself.

starting at

\$18,995 or **\$134**
per paycheck



2017 KIA RIO
FUNctional.™
Performance without compromise.
The 2017 Rio is as fun to look at as it is to drive.

starting at

\$16,995 or **\$120**
per paycheck



Like us on Facebook



Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON – FRI 8AM-6PM | SAT 8AM-12NOON
TEL. (670) 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown | Some conditions apply | On approved credit
See dealer for details | While Supplies last. *EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

Financing Available
as low as
5.40%
APR

2017 KIA RIO LX retail price \$16,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$259.07 or \$119.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$15,544.20.
2017 KIA SOUL LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$289.56 or \$133.64 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$17,373.60.

'CNMI remains zika-free'

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the CNMI and Guam are the only islands in the Pacific region that have no reported cases of the zika virus.

Warren Villagomez, CHCC director for Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Program, affirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that there are no cases of zika in the CNMI.

"We are crossing our fingers and are continuing our

campaign for prevention. We want to get the community aware to make sure to clean up their surroundings, making sure that there is no stagnant water in their household and areas that are impacted by the community," said Villagomez.

Zika cases have been reported throughout the region, including American Samoa, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, New Caledonia, Palau, and Papua New Guinea.

Besides contracting the zika virus from an *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that is infected with the virus, a person could also contract the virus sexually.

The zika virus affects the health of an unborn baby and is known to cause a congenital disease of an abnormally small head, linked to incomplete brain development, medically known as microcephaly.

The Northern Marianas College, in collaboration with Portland State University, is announcing its third round of recruitment for students interested in participating in the BUILD EXITO program.

The BUILD EXITO program is an undergraduate research training program funded by the National Institute of Health that is geared toward training students/scholars who are interested in conducting scientific research in biomedical, bioengineering, behavioral, clinical, health, and social topics.

The goals of this program are to help engage scholars in finding solutions to today's major health problems and to give them an opportunity to have hands-on, paid research experience. Participating scholars will have the opportunity to receive over \$1,000 per month stipend, receive faculty and peer mentoring, and attend Portland State University to earn their bachelor of science degree.

Currently, NMC is in its third year participating in the program and has five scholars who have already begun their training.

Beda Mundo, an NMC scholar who is currently attending PSU and working towards earning her bachelor's degree in Health Studies: Community Health, recently said, "Being an EXITO scholar has helped me grow as a future researcher. With the amazing support of my mentors, I was able to navigate

It is important to note that people infected with the zika virus may have varying degrees of symptoms, with some cases even exhibiting no symptoms at all.

Symptoms of zika include a fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis or red eyes, muscle pain, headache, pain behind

the yes, and/or vomiting.

To test for zika, a blood or urine test can confirm the virus' presence in the body.

Once infected by the virus, people would become immune to the disease.

"We encourage the community to clean up and keep their area and surroundings

dry because those are the mosquito-breeding points. We are working closely with the Bureau of Environmental Health. We have staff that are out there monitoring our mosquito traps and make sure we keep our surveillance activities elevated at all times," said Villagomez.

NMC students sought for BUILD EXITO program



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas College graduate Beda Mundo, who is now a student at Portland State University, is one of the BUILD EXITO scholars.

marianas.edu; Dr. Beylul Solomon, associate professor for NMC School of Education in Rehabilitation & Human Services, at beylul.solomon@marianas.edu, or Roland Merar, assistant professor for NMC School of Education in Elementary Education at roland.merar@marianas.edu. (NMC)

about BUILD EXITO, contact Charlotte Cepeda, NMC School of Education Director, at charlotte.cepeda@

Strong trade winds today

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, fresh to strong trade winds are expected today, Monday, becoming moderate from the south by Tuesday.

Combined seas of 9 to 10 feet will decrease to between 7 and 9 feet during the day Monday and to 5 to 7 feet by Tuesday night.

A weak disturbance is expected to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the region Monday night through Tuesday night.

A small craft advisory is in effect until 6pm Monday.

Fresh winds near 20 knots

and combined seas of 9 to 10 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft today, Monday. Winds and seas should subside late Monday afternoon.

A high surf advisory in effect until 6pm Monday. Surf will be hazardous at 7 to 9 feet along north facing reefs and will slowly decrease to below hazardous levels at 6 to 8 feet by late Monday afternoon.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. Avoid venturing near reefs along exposed beaches, especially along north facing shores where there will be a high risk of life threatening rip currents. (EOC)



is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant positions:

(1) ACCOUNTANT - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

High school diploma/GED required, College degree in related field, highly preferred. Four (4) years progressive experience in accounting, preferably from a high volume hotel, AA or BA in either accounting or in the hospitality finance is preferred. Strong math and computer skills, particularly with spreadsheets, knowledgeable with accounting software are required. Must have an eye for detail; strong time management and organizational skills are essential. Must be able to work under pressure and can work a flexible schedule including week-ends and holidays when required. Must go through a pre-employment drug test.

(1) IT TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST

High school diploma/GED required, College degree in related field highly preferred. Advanced experience in the configuration, installation repair and troubleshooting of computer hardware, network switches, network line connection, routers, Ruckus A/P, phone lines, phone units and other computer peripherals. Advanced experience in networking phone system and security camera. Advanced experience with desktop operating systems and MS applications. Advanced experience with skills in problem identification and problem resolution techniques. Ability to prioritize tasks with long term projects and work in a fast paced environment with minimum supervision, knowledge in property management POS, PBX system, web application, and SAP, must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends, holidays and overtime if necessary. Working conditions involve lifting and transporting moderately heavy objects such as computers and peripherals. Must go through a pre-employment drug test.

UPHOLSTER

High school diploma/GED required, Two (2) years experience as an Upholster with above average knowledge in upholstery making, designing and conceptualizing, knowledge on stitching by hand or with the use of big sewing machines, repairing or redesigning wrecked upholsters, must recognize different methods of upholstery making both in household and automobile, be able to communicate with the customers well and easy to understand what they want, must be meticulous with his/ her work, must be goal oriented and can meet deadlines. Must go through a pre-employment drug test.

(30) COOKS

High school diploma/GED required, one (1) year experience as a cook in, international cuisine is required and preferably from a full service hotel or high volume restaurant, able to read and follow standardized recipes, strong knowledge of proper food handling procedures, must have problem solving skills, be self-motivated and organized, must be able to work under pressure and adaptable to last minute work preparation, able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays, able to work as part of a team in a busy kitchen atmosphere, must go through a pre-employment drug test.

(5) GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Two (2) years experience as a general maintenance worker is required, must be able to work independently, must be able to move, carry and lift up to 50 pounds, must be a team player and has good interpersonal skills, able to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) CARPENTER

One (1) year carpentry experience or any equivalent combination of experience and/or education from which comparable knowledge, skills and abilities have been achieved. Incumbent in this classification is exposed to restricted movement, extreme temperature and intense noise inherent to carpentry position. Must be able to lift and carry objects up to 45 pounds. Must be able to work flexible schedule including week-ends and holidays.

(1) SUPERVISOR, CARPENTER

Two (2) years work experience in Carpentry, in a supervisory level is required, from a high volume hotel or building complex industry preferred, must be able to lift and carry objects up to 45 pounds, must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

(1) DEMI CHEF

Two (2) years work experience as a Demi Chef in a high volume restaurant or hotel is required. Must be able to work under extreme pressure, stand on feet for long periods of time and work in a heated environment, able to work nights, early morning hours, weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is February 6, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. Regular Board Meeting – January 24, 2017
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **New Business**
 1. FY 2018 Budget Submission to Office of Management and Budget
 2. 2017 Hell of the Marianas
- 4) **Old Business**
 1. Renewal of Tourist Exit Survey
- 5) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 6) **Executive Session**
- 7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors



JUDICIARY

Northern Mariana Islands



Request for Proposals 17-JUDICIARY-01

Janitorial Services for the Guma Hustisia, Imwal Aweewee,
House of Justice
Submission Date: February 10, 2017, 10:00 A.M.

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for janitorial services for the Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewee/House of Justice, Saipan, for a period of one (1) year. Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **January 27, 2017** at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp.

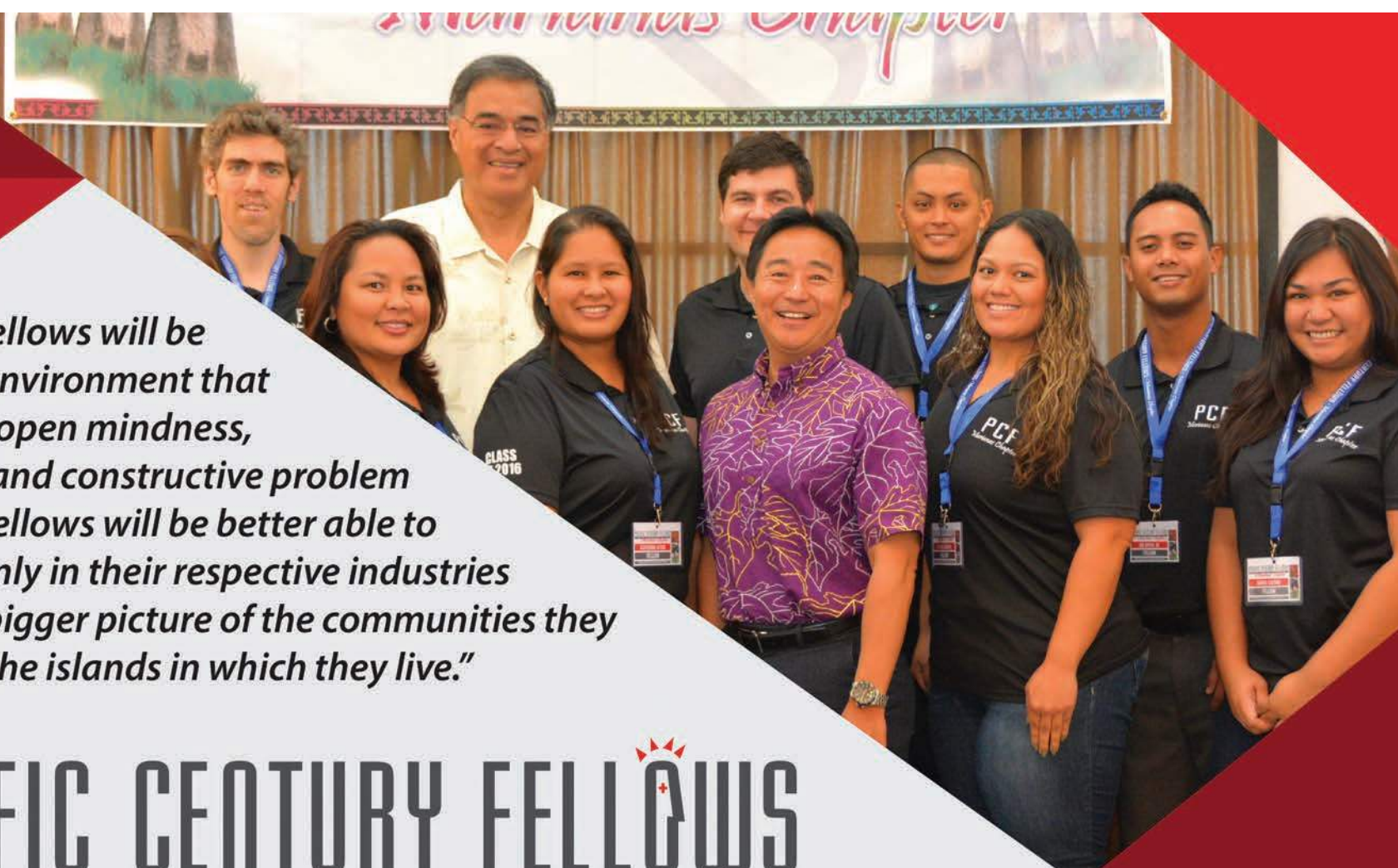
A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on **February 7, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.**, local time at the Guma Hustisia Law Revision Commission—Law Library. Any questions or inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Gerald Weaver, Building Superintendent, at the pre-proposal meeting and all questions will be answered at the mandatory pre-proposal meeting. Any questions or inquiries not raised at the mandatory pre-proposal meeting shall not be answered and shall be disregarded.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP17-JUDICIARY-01** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **February 10, 2017, 3:00 p.m., local time**. Proposals must expressly state that the price offered is good for a one (1) year period. Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **February 10, 2017, 3:00 p.m., local time**. Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 10, 2017**, AND the proposal must be received at the Office of the Budget and Finance Director no later than **February 22, 2017, close of business**.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Government and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/
Alexandro C. CastroJohn T. Villagomez
Chief JusticeBudget and Finance Director

/s/
John T. Villagomez
Budget and Finance Director



"Fellows will be in an environment that will foster open mindedness, creativity, and constructive problem solving... Fellows will be better able to lead, not only in their respective industries but in the bigger picture of the communities they serve and the islands in which they live."

PACIFIC CENTURY FELLOWS

P R O G R A M

Marianas Chapter

Bright minds brought together can make a world of difference. With the challenges we face in our CNMI, there has never been a greater need for leaders to start working better together.

The Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter is a non-profit, leadership development program that runs for about one year incorporating periodic sessions covering current issues facing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REQUIREMENTS:


- Must be between the ages of 25-45
- Must reside in the CNMI for at least 1 year
- Submit completed application
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation
- Must attend opening weekend retreat
- Must meet minimum attendance requirement

IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 27-February 17, 2017: Application Period
- February 25, 2017: Selection Saturday (Mandatory)
- March 11-12, 2017: Opening Weekend Retreat (Mandatory)

**APPLY
NOW!**

For more information and to apply, please visit us at www.pcf-marianas.com or contact Mel Naputi at (670) 235-0560 ext. 118.




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

OFFICIAL SEAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

January 23, 2017

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Governor
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 237-2200 or (670) 234-7689/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after February 8, 2017, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Construction of the San Vicente Central Park	To construct a park in the San Vicente Village	San Vicente, Saipan	\$475,691.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by February 8, 2017, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS


The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.


Ralph DLG. Torres

Governor



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICIAL SEAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-17-016

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for professional services to prepare a comparative feasibility assessment of water supply treatment alternatives, including desalination (RO and thermal/evaporative). The assessment will compare, at a minimum, location, type, size, cost, and funding options for each alternative to implement, construct and operate.

The scope of work and solicitation package will be emailed upon request, by the CUC Procurement and Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement and Supply Division.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be conducted at the CUC Conference Room No. 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building on **February 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. A teleconference number will be provided to interested off-island participants to call in and attend.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC RFP-17-016 - Feasibility Study of Water Supply Alternatives for the Island of Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 02, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competitive Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information of understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award of a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This bid and the ensuring contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI business license in compliance with the licensing laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2017**, to Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email address william.gilmore@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant, via email address at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Youth internships available at AMP

This summer, American Memorial Park will once again host the Youth Conservation Corps program and will be accepting applications through May 2, 2017, by close of business.

The Youth Conservation Corps is a well-balanced work-learn-earn program that develops an understanding and appreciation in participating youth of the nation's environment and heritage. YCC participants will engage in a wide variety of conservation and park operations activities that will teach them about the national park and the National

Park Service's mission to protect special places for all.

The park will hire between two to four youth in the YCC program at the federal minimum wage. The program will run for up to eight weeks, from May 29 to July 21, 2017, with participants working up to 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday. Enrollees must be at least 15 years of age by May 29, 2017, and no older than 18 on July 21, 2017. To apply, applicants must fill out an application and if not 18 years of age, have a parent's or guardian's signature. You will

only be contacted if you (or your child) have been selected and program participants will be selected at random and participation will be dependent on funding being available.

Applications can be picked up Monday through Friday, from 9am through 4pm, at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. For directions to the Visitor Center contact park rangers at (670) 234-7207 Ext. 2020. For questions about the YCC program, contact Theo K. Chargualaf at (671) 477-7278 Ext. 1005 or email theo_chargualaf@nps.gov. (**NPS**)

SCS lauds NJSDA team anew

Saipan Community School students again gave a good account of themselves during the latest qualifying round of the National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition held last Jan. 21 at the Dandan Middle School.

Eleven of the school's NJSDA team's members finished in the Top 5 with Maxine Rabago coming in first place in both the Original Oratory and Impromptu B competitions and second place in the Prose Masters A.

Her fellow eighth grader, Shaina Lee, finished first in Prose Masters A and bagged third place in Dramatic Interpretation A and fourth place in Storytelling A.

Vinson Bacani and James Park, another pair of eighth graders, came second in Duo Interpretation B. Park also finished first in both the Humorous Interpretation A and Poetry Masters C, while Bacani was fifth in Prose Masters A.

Eighth grader Mark Nam took home two third place finishes in Humorous Interpreta-

tion and Impromptu C.

A couple of seventh graders also impressed, with Tina Zhen finishing third in Storytelling A and fourth in both Poetry Masters C and Impromptu A.

Moon Zeng, meanwhile, came in fifth place in three categories: Dramatic Interpretation A, Impromptu C, and Poetry Masters C.

Sixth grader Jesus Sablan was first in Humorous Interpretation B, second in Storytelling B, and second also in Prose Masters B, while classmate Seo Young Baek was second in Humorous Interpretation B and fifth in Poetry Masters A.

Sixth graders Daniel Kang and Rina Park came in second place in Extemporaneous and second place in Poetry Masters C, respectively.

SCS NJSDA team coach Ashley Sikayun congratulated the 11 who finished in the Top 5 of the latest qualifying round.

"The SCS speech team has been working hard all season. It's always a joy to see their

efforts paying off. Their next task is gearing up for the upcoming regional competition in February," she said.

SCS principal Amanda Dunn also lauded the school's speech team, adding that their experience in the NJSDA competition comes a long way in building their confidence.

"It was really awesome to see our SCS students challenging themselves and excelling in events such as NJSDA. With every competition I see the students gaining more confidence that spreads far beyond the next meet, we see this confidence in the classroom, our chapel performances, and in other school events! I am very proud of all those who gave their best and for all the Top 5 finishers!" she said.

The SCS speech team's next event will be the regional competition of the NJSDA starting the week of Feb. 20. SCS holds its NJSDA practices either Thursday or Friday of the week from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. (**PR**)

Palau gets \$7.5M Compact funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula has authorized grant payments totaling \$7.5 million to Palau.

Continuing appropriations provided by the U.S. Congress thus far for fiscal year 2017 will support operational activities for the Palau government. Since the financial provisions of the Compact of Free Association expired in 2009, an annual amount of \$13,147,000 has been extended to Palau beginning in 2010.

"The U.S.-Palau relationship is grounded in shared history, friendship, and a strong partnership in national security, especially with respect to the Asia-Pacific region," said Pula. "Along with the State and Defense departments, we will continue to work with

Congress under current budgetary rules to advocate for ratification and extension of financial assistance to Palau as agreed to bilaterally in the Compact Review Agreement of 2010. Ratifying the agreement would continue to bolster realized goals in Palau of self-governance and democracy as well as bolster progress and maintain stability in the region."

The Compact, U.S. Public Law 99-658, embodies the unique and special relationship that exists between the United States and Palau and has been the basis for providing annual grant funding to support Palau in advancing the wellbeing of its people. Under the Compact, Palauan citizens may also be admitted to the United States to reside, work and study without a visa

as legal nonimmigrants. The Compact conversely provides U.S. military forces full authority and responsibility for security and defense matters in or relating to Palau and denial rights to foreign access in the Western Pacific region, an important element of U.S. Pacific strategy for defense of the U.S. homeland.

While financial grant assistance provisions of the U.S.-Palau Compact expired on Sept. 30, 2009, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-88 Sec. 122) and subsequent discretionary appropriations have continued to extend economic assistance to Palau. The U.S.-Palau relationship under the Compact continues in perpetuity until mutually terminated. (**OIA**)

Aldan’s bill to define port-related uses

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (R-Tinian) has introduced a House bill that would define industrial port use and port-related operations.

If enacted, HB 20-23 would allow government agencies on Tinian and Rota to lease public lands for public purposes. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources chaired by Rep. Alice S. Igitol (R-Saipan).

Aldan said the definition of industrial port use and port-related operations was not formally defined for public policy.

“It is the intention of [HB 20-3] to define it due to lack of codified definitions and the potential for different government agencies to define it differently,” he said.

Based on the Legislature’s research on several states—Louisiana, Mississippi, and Missouri—and on Washington, D.C., they define the terms to include the phrase “interest for public policy while still maintaining some sort of port operation or use.”

Aldan said there were properties the Department of Public Lands or any previous agency transferred to the Commonwealth Ports Authority that remains unused.

“[It] continues to diminish in value over time. [It] diminishes other DPL-held properties that restricts economic development.”

He said it was clear in the original grant of public domain land to CPA that they are allowed exclusive jurisdiction to plan, establish, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate, and regulate CNMI ports.

“It is the Legislature’s intention to allow CPA to establish such industrial ports and port-related operations through [this] legislative definition.”

“There is a legitimate public purpose to allow the CPA to lease certain parcels situated on the islands of Tinian and Rota for use as an industrial port or for port-related operations that could promote a viable economy and interisland transportation of passengers and goods.”

Aldan said this would also increase the value of the surrounding public property. “By authorizing CPA to improve its properties along the ports, it would generate revenues under certain port-related operations.”

He also wants to amend the law that states “public lands transferred to other government agencies that are not in compliance with the specific non-commercial use approved by DPL will revert back to the

authority of the department.” Aldan wants to add “unless the public land is being used by that government for commercial use that is related to or associated within the agency’s mandate or for a legitimate public purpose.”



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC LAW 6 - 10, REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY OR PLACE OF ORIGIN. APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR IS ELIGIBLE AND AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

CONTINUOUS & UNTIL FILLED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ANNOUNCEMENT #	POSITION/TITLE	PAY LEVEL /STEP	PER ANNUM	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	CLOSING DATE	LOCATION
PSS 2017-015	School Principal (3 Positions)	Ungraded	\$50,000.00 - \$60,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Principal I<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Master's degree with a major in educational administration or related field.b) At least six (6) years of experience; three (3) years of full time appropriate teaching experience and the other three (3) years of experience must be in school administration or a related leadership management field.Principal II<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Master's degree with a major in educational administration or related field.b) At least seven (7) years of service; three (3) years of full time appropriate teaching experience and the other four (4) years of experience must be in school administration or a related leadership management field.Principal III<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Master's degree with a major in educational administration or related field.b) At least nine (9) years of experience; four (4) years of full time appropriate teaching experience and six (6) years of work experience in school administration or a related leadership field. <p>OTHER REQUIREMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">School Principal I-III:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must possess a valid administrator certificate; andMust have taken and passed the Praxis I and appropriate Praxis II exam starting July 31, 2007	Feb. 01, 2017– Until Filled	Saipan & Rota Schools
PSS 2017-016	School Vice Principal (5 Positions)	Ungraded	\$40,00.00 - \$50,00.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EDUCATION:<ul style="list-style-type: none">School Vice Principal I:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in education, related field or equivalent.School Vice Principal II:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Master's degree in education administration or a related field;WORK EXPERIENCE:<ul style="list-style-type: none">School Vice Principal I & II:<ul style="list-style-type: none">At least three (3) years appropriate teaching experienceOTHER REQUIREMENTS:<ul style="list-style-type: none">School Vice Principal I & II:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must take and pass PRAXIS I & the appropriate PRAXIS II exam starting July 31, 2007.CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:<ul style="list-style-type: none">School Vice Principal II:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Must possess a valid administrator certification. <p>In Accordance with PSS Personnel Regulations Sub Part A: 60-30.3-702, Sub Part B: 60-30.3-735, Sub Part B: 60-30.3-740</p>	Feb. 01, 2017– Until Filled	Saipan, Tinian & Rota Schools
PSS 2017-001	Public Information Officer (Executive Assistant)	Ungraded	\$55,000.00 - \$65,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Master's degree plus a minimum two (2) years successful experience as a School Administrator/Principal/Vice-Principal or Program Manager.	Feb. 01-15, 2017	Office of the Commissioner of Education
PSS 2017-002	Treasurer (Re-Announcement)	32/01-12	\$24,889.35 - \$42,558.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or related areas and progressive studies towards a Master's Degree, plus at least three (3) years experience in accounting.	Feb. 01, 2017– Until Filled	PSS Finance Office
PSS 2017-009	Early Intervention Program Director	Ungraded	\$55,000.00 - \$65,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Graduation from an accredited college or university with an Masters (MA) degree in Special Education plus four (4) years work related experience.Must have taken and passed PRAXIS I (PPST) and PRAXIS II in Early Intervention or Special Education.	Feb. 01-15, 2017	Early Intervention Program
PSS 2017-019	Comptroller	Ungraded	\$50,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bachelor's degree in accounting from an accredited college or university or certified equivalentFive (5) years of work experience in accounting with at least one year of supervisory/management experience plus two (2) years of government auditing experience with two (2) years of work experience using JD Edwards Financial and Accounting software.Certified Public Accountant (CPA) preferred	Feb. 03-17, 2017	PSS Finance Office
PSS 2017-020	State Level Technology Director	Ungraded	\$50,000.00 - \$60,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Graduation from a US accredited college or university with an AA/AS degree plus five (5) years of work related experience and technical certification ORGraduation from a US accredited college or university with a BA degree plus three (3) years of work related experience and technical certification, ORGraduation from a US accredited college or university with an MA degree, plus one (1) year of work related experience and technical certification	Feb. 03-17, 2017	Office of Administrative Services
PSS 2016-212	Director of Finance (Re-Announcement II)	Ungraded	\$50,000.00 - \$70,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, Finance, Accounting, or related field of study, plus five (5) years work experience and can either hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant; OR MA degree in Business Administration, Finance and Accounting or related field of study, plus five (5) years related work experience, including three (3) years in Public Auditing or Government Auditing.	Feb. 03, 2017– Until Filled	PSS Finance Office

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT ISETA CT., CAPITOL HILL BUILDING #1202 SAIPAN CNMI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, ISETA CT., CAPITOL HILL BUILDING #1202 SAIPAN CNMI, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 664-3827. FREE COPY.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 25

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Gorsuch a judge in the mold of Scalia

With his selection of Neil Gorsuch as his first nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, President Donald Trump seeks to fulfill a campaign promise to appoint a well-qualified jurist who shares the judicial philosophy of the man he will succeed, the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

Judge Gorsuch's qualifications for the high court seem impressive. He holds degrees from Columbia University, Harvard Law School and Oxford University, clerked for two U.S. Supreme Court justices, spent a year working in the Justice Department as principal assistant to the deputy attorney general under President George W. Bush and has served for a decade on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals after unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

He's even received praise from former Obama acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal.

"Judge Gorsuch is one of the most thoughtful and brilliant judges to have served our nation over the last century. As a judge, he has always put aside his personal views to serve the rule of law," Katyal wrote in a statement posted by CNN's Jake Tapper on Twitter. "To boot, as those of us who have worked with him can attest, he is a wonderfully decent and humane person. I strongly support his nomination to the Supreme Court."

Like Scalia, Gorsuch holds an "originalist" view that the Constitution and laws should be interpreted with respect for the meaning that the words had to the people who voted for them at the time.

This view conflicts with the belief of judges on the other side of the ideological spectrum that the Constitution and laws should be interpreted more flexibly to adapt to changing circumstances. The tension between interpreting the Constitution and upholding precedents is permanently installed in our judicial system. The Senate confirmation hearings for Judge Gorsuch will probe his views on issues including abortion, gun rights, campaign finance restrictions and other matters that are less well-known but equally consequential. For example, Gorsuch has expressed disagreement with the legal precedent that says courts should defer to administrative agencies when interpreting an ambiguous law. This could signal a renewed effort of the judiciary to check executive power, which has expanded significantly in recent years.

Some Democrats have vowed to fight the nomination, though such resistance might be mostly symbolic, given how much power Republicans now hold in Washington and the fact that Gorsuch would simply be replacing another conservative justice, and therefore would be unlikely to lead to a shift in the previous court's balance of power or significant changes in established precedents. The larger fight will come if and when one of the more liberal justices needs to be replaced. In any case, early indications of Gorsuch's jurisprudence seem mostly positive, and his credentials merit him fair consideration in the Senate, not mere partisan grandstanding.

(c)2017 The Orange County Register (Santa Ana, Calif.)



Why Supreme Court nominations prompt scorched-earth warfare

After successfully delivering the secret knock and password, a beleaguered, unshaven older man walks into the bunker, stomping out the cold from his feet on the way in. He walks over to one of the garbage-can fires, where his younger yet battle-hardened comrades are gathered, strategizing about the fight to come. As the grizzled veteran rubs his hands over the flames, his eyes glinting in the firelight, he says to them, wistfully, "You know, Supreme Court nomination fights weren't always like this."

It's not quite that bad yet in Washington, but the year is young and the fight over Neil Gorsuch, President Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court, has just begun.

Whenever there is a Supreme Court vacancy, a preemptive wave of exhaustion comes over me. It's the same arguments every time.

Some process arguments migrate from one party to another depending on which side is on defense or offense. "The nominee deserves a speedy hearing and confirmation," each side yells when their guy is in the White House. "We have an obligation to take the advise-and-consent role seriously and cannot rush the process," each side insists when the other team controls the White House. Each party has an endless supply of quotes to throw at the other, proving their hypocrisy.

For instance, under Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, respectively, Democratic Sens. Joe Biden (back when he chaired the Judiciary Committee) and Chuck Schumer argued that the Senate must not consider any appointments during a presidential campaign. Under President Barack Obama, Republicans took that advice and refused to consider Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland.

But when it comes to ideological arguments—my favorite kind—the team jerseys never change. Republicans, rightly by my lights, argue that the Supreme Court should not act like an unelected legislature, making up laws and Constitutional rights as it pleases. Democrats argue, wrongly in my opinion, that the Constitution is a "living document" that must be reinterpreted and given new meaning with every generation. I think this is a garbage argument and have explained why I think so in countless columns. No doubt I'll have to again sometime soon.

But there's another argument worth dealing with. Many con-

By **JONAH GOLDBERG**
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.



servatives—myself included—argue that the rejection of Robert Bork is what poisoned the Supreme Court nominating process. On one level, I think that is right. Bork, whom I knew, was one of the great legal minds of the 20th century.

Even Biden admitted before Bork's nomination that, barring some unforeseen skeletons in his closet, Bork was simply too qualified to be rejected. "Say the administration sends up Bork," Biden told the Philadelphia Inquirer in November 1986, "and, after our investigations, he looks a lot like (earlier Reagan nominee Antonin) Scalia. I'd have to vote for him, and if the (special-interest) groups tear me apart, that's the medicine I'll have to take."

Scalia, recall, had been confirmed unanimously, 98-0.

It turned out that Biden would balk at taking his medicine. With the help of a vile, demagogic attack from Ted Kennedy and left-wing interest groups, Biden helped tank Bork's nomination. And thus began the process of scorched-earth warfare over Supreme Court confirmations.

While I think the "Bork bitterness" interpretation explains a lot, it also misses an important point. Such battles are inevitable when the Supreme Court becomes another legislative branch. People balk at all the money special interests now spend on these fights, but that money pales in comparison to what is spent by lobbyists on congressional elections. So why should it surprise anyone that when the Supreme Court acts like another Congress, special interests will act likewise?

If forced to fix blame on the primary cause of this mess, it was the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which invented a constitutional right to abortion. Even Ruth Bader Ginsburg has conceded that the case short-circuited the democratic process and prevented a national consensus from forming on how to deal with the issue.

"My criticism of *Roe* is that it seemed to have stopped the momentum on the side of change," she said in 2013 on *Roe*'s 40th anniversary.

Whatever you think of *Roe v. Wade*, the decision is emblematic of the court's evolution into a lawmaking body. Once that happened, it was inevitable that the process would be Borkified. What's remarkable is not that it happened, but that it took so long.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Middle Finger Economy

My employer provides a benefit that, I think, is similar to a health savings account. I got a new card for it in the mail but needed to activate it by calling a special number.

I promptly called and entered the many digits demanded by the robot voice. It didn't work. Robot voice said I should try one more time and, if it failed again, I would be transferred to a help line. Failure after failure followed. I could find no way to reach a non-robot voice also known as a human—not through the website or any other publicly available phone number.

On the verge of going postal, I had an epiphany. One of the robot voice's first commands is that account holders should press "1" and all others should press "2." I had been dutifully pressing "1" because I was an account holder. This time I pressed "2." I got a real person—a nice person—in seconds.

My understanding was that people who pressed "2" were potentially new customers and new revenue. People who pressed "1" already were account holders who could only cost the company time and money.

I have no evidence this was an intentional scheme.

But it definitely was a manifestation of an invisible force every consumer in America battles. I call it the Middle-Finger Economy, or MFE.

The idea is that once you have a captive customer with limited options, you don't offer good services, you torture them; you spend the least possible money on them and try to get the most money out of them.

In the MFE, the customer is seen as an enemy to be defeated by extortion, psychological abuse or brutal marketing.

It seems we have an advocate for MFE in the Oval Office

now. If a company has a plan to build a factory in Mexico, threaten them punitive tariffs. If a citizen criticizes you, insult that citizen on Twitter. If a country won't pay for a border wall they don't want, threaten to cut-off relations and trade.

Lesser mortals in consumerland face lesser perils, though obnoxious they are.

Telecommunications companies are notorious. Several years ago, I decided to switch to a new cable and internet carrier—a penny-wise, sanity-stupid move. There was no way to cancel my old account online. In this case, I had to talk to a human and that, of course, entailed being subjected to dropped calls and long hold times. Then the human tried to talk me out of switching. It was crazy.

Shortly after that, I wrote a little item about a tech writer named Ryan Block who actually managed to record a Comcast "customer service rep" berating him for trying to cancel his account. It was a smoking gun of MFE and his story went viral. Millions of innocent customers have been tortured trying to switch carriers.

Airlines are perfecting the MFE. Their special genius is realizing they could degrade every level of service to such a degree that customers would be so miserable they would pay dearly to alleviate any suffering they could. By scrunching seats closer and closer together, airline companies could not only cram more human cattle onto a plane, they could charge some of them extra money for two inches of extra leg room or an aisle seat. They starve you and then try to sell you junk food at pirate prices. They charge you for checked bags and then charge you to get at the head of the boarding line so you can be sure there is room in the overhead bin for your unchecked luggage.

By **DICK MEYER**

Scripps Washington Bureau



Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.newsnet5.com/decodedc).

I expect airlines will start charging soon for not spilling coffee on you or adding a surcharge if your flight arrives on time.

I detect a similar but subtler predatory impulse in tech and online businesses that are popular and have great reputations for customer service—the Apples, eBays and Amazons of the world. The trade-off consumers make for these incredible services is that our personal data becomes a commodity for sale and we become sitting ducks for targeted, relentless marketing. Maybe that is a fair deal, but it smacks of being MFE-lite.

In my consumer experience, the worst culprits are still insurance companies of all sorts, cable and internet providers, and airlines, but I am curious what others think.

I suppose the smart, capitalist response to MFE is to become a better, wiler consumer and a more vigilant guardian of my data. But that is exactly how I do not wish to spend my allotted time on the planet.

So I am trying to become a more Zen consumer, limiting my choices and casting away as many commercial desires as possible. I'm on hold for the results.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Expediting immigration screening at Saipan airport

Dear Ms. Marian Aldan-Pierce: Thank you for your letter of Jan. 25, reporting that the Marianas Visitors Authority is working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to expedite immigration screening at the Saipan airport. I have seen the long lines and I agree with you that moving through immigration quickly makes for a better visitor experience. Last year, I raised this concern with the two largest charter operators from China. I asked for their ideas on how we can reduce wait-times, while also protecting the integrity and long-term viability of the parole system that makes it so easy for Chinese tourists to come to the Marianas. This remains the central question.

Your letter also asks for verification of a statement, attributed to CBP Port Director Robert Havens, that "CBP is unable to open new agent positions as they have already reached the cap for employees set by Congress for the Saipan International Airport." I have met with CBP officials here in Washington and asked the Congressional Research Service to provide me with accurate information about CBP resources and how they are deployed. Both CBP and CRS report to me that the statement you asked about is not true. There is no cap set by Congress on the number of CBP officers who can be assigned to Saipan.

It is true that Congress sets the annual funding level for Customs and Border Protection, which necessarily limits how many officers the agency can deploy in total nationwide. And, over the last several years, Congress has been increasing funding for officers in recognition of the need to speed processing at ports everywhere. CBP allocates these

funds, using a staffing model based on the number of visitors arriving at each port of entry and related factors to determine how many officers are assigned at each location.

For security reasons CBP does not disclose the specific number of officers assigned at any port of entry. CBP has told me that the number 20, which has been widely reported in the media as the number of officers in the Marianas, is not accurate.

There are more than 20 currently employed; and there are more than 20 positions budgeted for our islands. It is true, however, that the number of officers on station is below the budgeted level. For that reason, screenings may have slowed and may have contributed to the concern voiced in your letter.

To shed light on your concern I requested—and CBP is now posting online—the wait-times that the agency records for arrivals at the Saipan airport. This will allow any interested member of the public to review in hour-by-hour detail how quickly passengers are being processed, to compare processing times at the Saipan airport from day to day, to see wait-times at other U.S. ports of entry, and to know how many officers were on duty at any given time. For instance, on Jan. 29, CBP reports, average wait-times varied from 5 minutes to 49 minutes; and, with the exception of persons taken aside for extra vetting, no one waited more than 90 minutes.

Of course, 90 minutes is too long; and we all share the goal of improving these times further. To that end I would like to invite the Marianas Visitors Authority and other relevant parties—the Commonwealth Ports Authority, airlines, Customs and Border Protection, and others in the tourism economy—to meet with me at the Saipan congressional office in the near future to establish a common understanding of the facts and to discuss what each can do to better the visitor experience.

Among the ideas worth considering is managing the arrival of aircraft so that CBP may make most efficient use of its officers. Expediting the hiring of CBP staff, offering incentives for Saipan postings, and putting more focus on local hires in the Marianas are certainly to be encouraged. I understand, too, that CBP and CPA are in discussion of a

reimbursable cost agreement that could shorten wait-times by providing more overtime for CBP officers. Congress has authorized agreements of this nature that allow CBP to enter into public-private partnerships and that permit the private sector to fund improvements in border facilities and port services, including by underwriting overtime and funding additional CBP officers. CPA and MVA may want to consider such investments to improve the visitor experience.

Beyond what can be done at the Saipan airport itself to shorten the time each individual passenger is reviewed by CBP upon arrival, there are measures that could be taken prior to arrival. Prescreening visitors in their home country either in person or electronically, when they schedule their travel and/or before allowing them to board, reduces wait-times. I understand, for instance, that each deplaning passenger from China seeking to enter the Marianas under parole now takes on average 110 seconds to process. By comparison, a passenger who is prescreened in their home country using ESTA, the electronic system for travel authorization, requires only 25 seconds upon arrival. MVA, however, expressed concern about the cost that would be imposed on potential tourists by ESTA, when this was proposed by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo last year.

Similarly, moving away from the current parole system for Chinese and Russian visitors to a requirement that these passengers obtain visas in their home country prior to departure could expedite their processing upon arrival. A visa requirement could harm our economy by reducing the number of tourists who are allowed to enter the Marianas.

But requiring a tourist visa or employing other forms of prescreening could address the concerns expressed by MVA, government officials, and the general public about birth tourism and the entry of persons of questionable character, whose exclusion could have a positive effect on our islands. These are trade-offs you may want to consider.

I hope this information helps you. Please consider my offer to bring parties together for further face-to-face discussion.

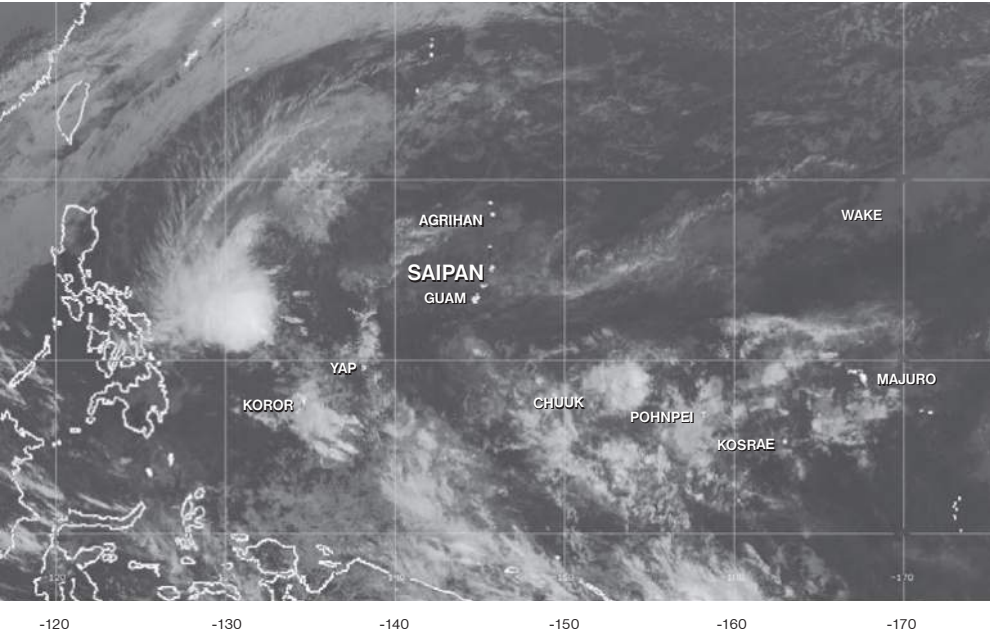
Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan
Member of Congress

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:40 AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretched across the Marianas this morning in the vicinity of Rota. Scatterometer data showed stronger winds over Tinian and Saipan and observations from Saipan showed frequent peak wind reports. Considered breaking up zones because of differing wind and precipitation. Model data indicated similar wind conditions developing over Guam and Rota later today and while Tinian and Saipan may have a little more shower activity, Guam and Rota are not too far behind. Scattered showers expected until at least noon time with improving conditions this afternoon. Models keep winds elevated only through the day with breezy conditions prevailing during the day before decreasing tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Beijing	Cloudy	39° / 27°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	68° / 63°
Honolulu	Showers	77° / 68°
London	Showers	46° / 43°
Los Angeles	Showers	64° / 56°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 68°
New York	Mostly Sunny	40° / 28°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 36°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 43°
Pusan	Sunny	48° / 34°
Rome	Showers	55° / 43°
Salem	Showers	68° / 51°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	43° / 28°
Seoul	Sunny	37° / 21°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	47° / 34°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:14 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.53
9:05 AM	LOW TIDE		1.08
2:47 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.91
10:23 PM	LOW TIDE		-0.14

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:53 AM	1:44 PM
Tuesday	-	2:53 AM	2:41 PM
Wednesday	-	3:53 AM	3:39 PM
Thursday	-	4:50 AM	4:38 PM
Friday	-	5:45 AM	5:37 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION

Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING

For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:55am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	6:30AM	6:45AM	Daily	SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
			5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			

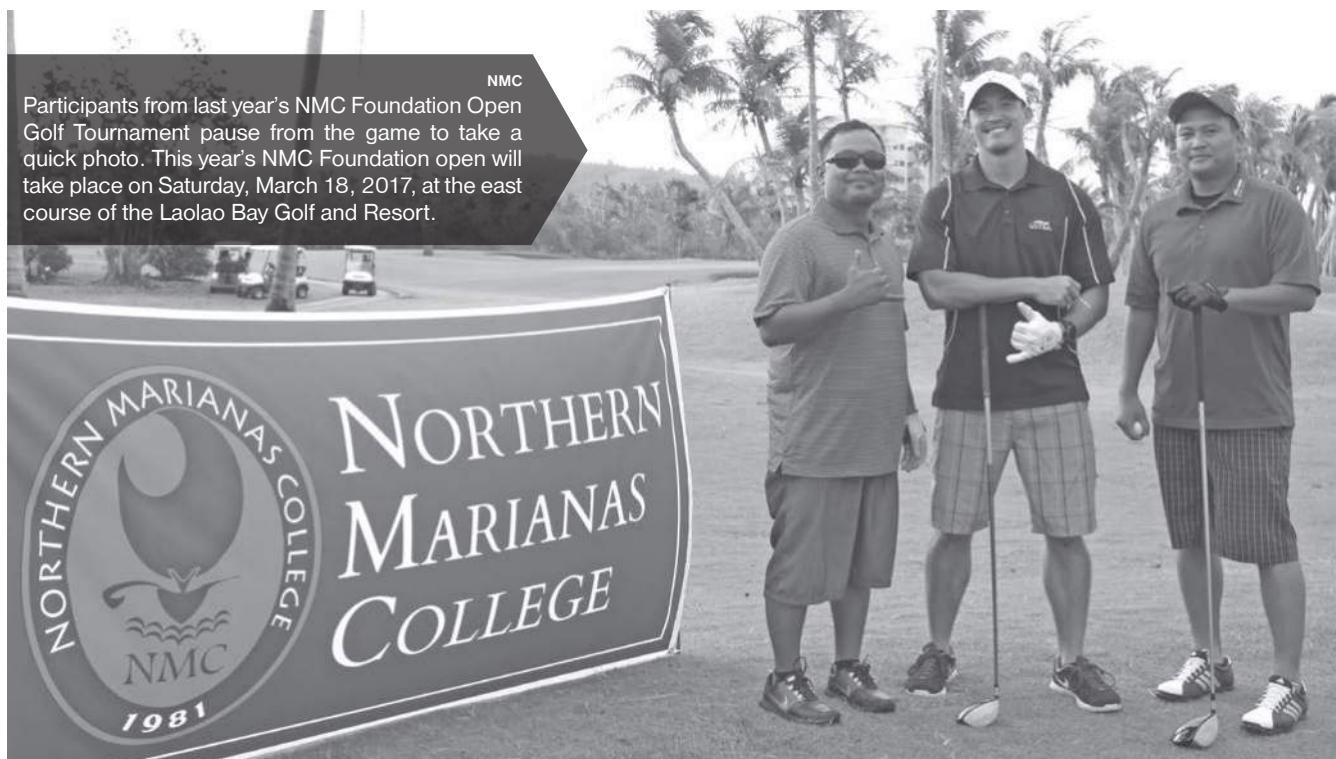
NMC Foundation to host 14th open golf tourney

The Northern Marianas College Foundation's signature event, the Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament, will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. This will be the 14th year the tournament will be held.

All proceeds from the tournament will be used to support NMC's mission. The NMC Foundation is an all-volunteer board, committed to elevating higher education opportunities for CNMI students.

"It's great that the NMC Foundation Open has built a loyal following of golfers and supporters who are dedicated to helping the college," said NMC Foundation president Mary Tenorio. "We are appreciative of their continued support and look forward to seeing them on the golf course again this March."

"The NMC Foundation also encourages other golfers who have not played in the Foun-



Participants from last year's NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament pause from the game to take a quick photo. This year's NMC Foundation open will take place on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

dation Open before to join us this year," Tenorio added. "All funds raised will go toward NMC's mission to provide

more opportunities for students and help them meet their educational goals."

The entrance fee for the

tournament is \$100 per player.

Interested players are also invited to bring their families, friends, and playing partners

for a fantastic day of fun and fundraising for a good cause. There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies. There will be lots of great prizes and awards to players and sponsors.

The NMC Foundation is asking companies, organizations and individuals who are interested to sponsor holes and/or for any in-kind or cash donation to help support the only postsecondary institution in the CNMI. If you would like to become a sponsor or register to play, you can contact the Northern Marianas College at 237-6833.

Registration forms are available at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort and at the NMC Cashiers Office, where payments for the registration fee can be made as well. (NMC)

Whispering Palms raise thousands in auction

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Whispering Palms School raised a few thousand during its 7th annual Wine and Tapas Auction at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Jan. 27.

The annual auction, organized by Angie Mister, garnered an estimated \$4,000 in funds, said Whispering Palms head of school Jeff La Roux.

"This is the first time that I have experienced this but the support from the community is tremendous. The community has given us \$6,000 worth

of donations," said La Roux.

It was also the first time that Whispering Palms School students participated in the auction. Children were not allowed to enter the auction area, though, because of the wine tasting.

"We had our students create projects, such as photographs and artwork and auctioned them off. I went to each classroom thanking them for being like their parents by supporting the school," said La Roux.

The students made art pieces painted on old wooden

palettes; photography; and a montage containing the tiny hands of preschoolers in the shape of hearts photographed by teachers.

The highlight of the auction was the skydiving tickets for two and the customized and hand-painted Malcolm Campbell surfboard.

The skydiving tickets, courtesy of Skydive Saipan, went to Christem Steinkuller for \$275. The hand-painted Malcolm Campbell surfboard, which was donated to the school by Whispering Palms resident art teacher Nadia

Richards, sold for \$259 to Will Ordosgoiti.

La Roux said the fundraiser started as a small group composed of Mister and her friends until it got bigger and bigger every year.

The money raised from the auction would go to the special programs of the school.

"We are redoing the elementary playground. We take all of our kids to Managaha [Island]. I even take all of our 8th graders to Europe. We would be going to Lithuania, Germany, and Netherlands in May," said La Roux.

Bordallo seeks H-2B regulatory relief

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) wrote to Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly Friday to request assistance in resolving Guam's H-2B challenges and to consider any negative impacts future executive orders on immigration could have on national security in the region. She requested that Kelly exercise his regulatory authority to provide for a commonsense solution to Guam's workforce challenges. She underscored the challenges the denials have had on Guam's economy and the implications they could have on U.S. security interests in the region.

"The H-2B visa program has been critical to supporting

Guam's workforce needs and sustaining our healthcare, tourism, and military construction industries. The rash of denials we have seen threatens U.S. military posture in the region and Guam's economic wellbeing. I continue to believe that it is within USCIS' authority to provide administrative relief for this crisis and I hope that [Kelly] will exercise his regulatory authority to address our challenges. I also encourage the administration to consider any negative impacts future executive orders could have on our national security interests and to ensure that future actions on immigration do not have unintended consequences for the U.S. realignment in the region." (PR)

NEWS BRIEFS

Bodybuilding federation to host fundraiser

The Northern Marianas Bodybuilding & Physique Federation will be holding a "Party in the Park" on Feb. 25, 2017, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Garapan Central Park (Roundhouse) to raise funds for our bodybuilders to compete in local and international competitions. The cost is \$20 per person.

The federation is preparing for the 3rd Annual Marianas Muscle competition to be held on March 25, 2017, and in July it will be holding the CNMI bodybuilding championships. These events will be officially sanctioned by NMBPF and will determine those competitors who will be eligible to represent the CNMI in international competitions.

For tickets, contact Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 or email jeanneesq@yahoo.com or Karen Davis, at 789-9214. (PR)

MMAC team captains' meeting tomorrow

The Marianas March Against Cancer planning committee's Subcommittee on Recruitment would like to remind team captains that Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017, will be their first meeting for the upcoming annual event to be held on May 12, 2017, at Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao. The meeting

will be held at the Commonwealth Cancer Association office in Gualo Rai at 6pm. For more information, contact the CCA at (670) 682-0050 or email at mmacteams@gmail.com. (PR)

Calling Tinian homestead applicants

Current Tinian homestead applicants interested in finding out the status of their homestead applications can contact Lisa Aguon, DPL Tinian Office, at (670) 433-9245 to book an appointment on Feb. 2 or 3, 2017. (PR)

USCG has new online newsroom

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Coast Guard is scheduled to launch its new, online digital newsroom, <http://www.news.uscg.mil>, Thursday last week.

The mobile-friendly content management system replaces the service's previous news site, www.uscgnews.com, and offers an email subscription service that delivers both regional and national Coast Guard news.

Users can click "here to subscribe" to the news delivery service. This new capability will allow users to manage their Coast Guard news preferences through the service's subscription preferences page.

Users currently receiving Coast Guard news

via uscgnews.com will continue to receive news releases via email; however, users can opt out of the emails by clicking the unsubscribe button at the bottom of any Coast Guard email sent from the new system.

For more information, contact 202-372-4630. (USCG)

Naval Base Guam to test Giant Voice System

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will conduct routine testing of the vital communication and advance warning system, "Giant Voice system on Feb. 6 starting at 3pm.

Residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers should only hear short verbal tests of the system, including warning tones. This is a monthly test that typically falls on the first Monday of each month. (PR)

13th Hot Pepper Festival this Feb.

The 13th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 18-19, 2017, will again have ferry service between Saipan and Tinian this year. Festival times will be from 2pm to 11pm on Feb. 18 and from 11am to 11pm on Feb. 19.

Ferry service aboard the *Super Emerald* will be available on Feb. 17-20, 2017. Round trip cost is \$15 (0-2 years old), \$30 (3-11 years old), and \$35 (age 12 and older).

For one way, the cost will be \$8 (0-2 years old), \$15 (3-11 years old), and \$18 (age 12 and older).

Passengers are allowed up to 70 lbs of cargo, including bicycles (a \$10 fee will be charged for additional cargo). The ferry schedule will be announced shortly.

To support the festival, Star Marianas Air will also extend scheduled flights to 9:30pm on Feb. 17 and Feb. 18.

For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at (670) 433-9365 or e-mail at vbora@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

Become a Reading Ranger at AMP

The American Memorial Park is inviting first to third graders on Saipan to participate in this year's first Reading Ranger selection. Over three days, Feb. 7, 8, and 9, from 3pm to 4:30pm, young readers will be guided through *The Unbreakable Code* by Sara Hoagland Hunter by a park ranger.

To register your child, call lead ranger Brooke Nevitt or Jovanna Mafnas at 234-7207 or 2020. There are a limited number of spaces and participation will be determined by the date of registration. For more information on events at American Memorial Park, contact Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or via email at: brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)

Mount Carmel School Alumni Party

Photos by
ERWIN ENCINARES



Mount Carmel School AlumKnights batch 1970 enjoy their dinner at the MCS Alumni Party.



Mount Carmel School AlumKnights batch 1983 attended the MCS alumni party.



Mount Carmel School AlumKnights batch 1975 attended the MCS alumni party.



Mount Carmel School AlumKnights batch 1980 attended the MCS alumni party.



Mount Carmel School AlumKnights batch 1982 attended the MCS alumni party.



Rep. Ed Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) sits with other AlumKnights of Mount Carmel School at the MCS alumni party, "Night with the Knights."



Mount Carmel School AlumKnights batch 1976 attended the MCS alumni party.



Mount Carmel School AlumKnights batch 1984 attended the MCS alumni party.



Mount Carmel School AlumKnights batch 1960 is the oldest batch present in the MCS Alumni party, "Night with the Knights"



Mount Carmel School AlumKnights batch 1990 attended the MCS alumni party.

PSS declares National Counseling Week

Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada signed a proclamation last week declaring the week of Feb. 6-10 "Public School System Counselor's Week."

This is also a landmark year for the Public School System's Counseling Program: for the first time, funding will be solely dedicated for training/professional development

of school counselors and the Board of Education will be investing more resources for the use of school counselors on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"The Board of Education

will always be behind you, and I am proud to announce that the Board of Education will be committing funding directly for all of you—for your work," Ada said during the signing ceremony held at Dandan Middle School Friday morning.

Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero celebrated the announcement with school counselors, administrators and public school students who witnessed the proclamation signing.

The proclamation is in conjunction with the American School Counselor Association, which has sponsored the week of Feb. 6-10 as National School Counseling Week, anchored on the theme, "Helping Students Realize Their Potential."

"We will be providing for more training opportunities for all of you so that you can continue to help our public school students and your peers," Ada said. "On behalf of our BOE thank you for your hard work. We love you."

This week's celebration will be highlighted with several activities dedicated to public schools' counselors.

On Tuesday and Wednesday,

the school district will conduct the Safe Space training for counselors. This training is designed to facilitate competency working with and serving LGBTQ youth.

On Feb. 9 and 10, the Youth Advisory Panel will also hold a separate celebration honoring PSS counselors.

Also on Feb. 9, there will be a Youth Health Summit. This will be conducted in collaboration with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Each of the 19 public elementary, middle and high schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will also hold a series of in-school activities celebrating PSS Counselor's Week.

Following the proclamation, Deleon Guerrero met all the public school counselors and administrators, hailing them for their sacrifices.

"I thank you all for your strength because not everyone could be a counselor," said Deleon Guerrero, herself a former school counselor. "It was the toughest job that I ever had. The reason why I say that because it requires strength to be able to handle all the challenges in making sure that our public school students are given the necessary

preparation and support."

"Every child comes to our schools everyday because of you: our school counselors who works in partnership with our classroom teachers, school administrators, staff, and our parents," Deleon Guerrero added.

The current PSS State Counselor of the Year is Patty Mendoza of Dandan Middle School. "I am really excited [about Ada's] announcement. This is really something, especially that our BOE is going [all out] to support us. This is a good news to hear," Mendoza said.

Associate commissioner for Students and Support Services Yvonne R. Pangelinan said 2017 is a landmark year for PSS' counseling program.

"This is a landmark year for us because the Board of Education will begin hearing our proposal to adopt the national counseling standards. We will also be finalizing the Child Abuse and Neglect Policy revision," Pangelinan said. "The one that is really landmark for us is because the [BOE] is really committing funding for our school counselors' continued training and providing for more resources." (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Board of Education chair MaryLou Ada hailed the commitment and hard work of school counselors, as Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, BOE teacher representative Paul Miura, Associate commissioner for Student and Support Services Yvonne Pangelinan, and school counselors look on.



POST-SOUELOR CLEANUP

IMPERIAL PACIFIC CSR

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team has partnered with Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts with debris removal in Koblerville, one of the villages that bore the brunt of Typhoon Soudebor. In this photos, IPI-CSR coordinator Martin Pangelinan and CSR representatives Chris Meyers and Fuji Suel clear trash buildup left by Typhoon Soudebor.



IMPERIAL PACIFIC CSR

The removal and disposal of debris has been ongoing with Imperial Pacific's CSR team's sustained cleanup work.



Imperial Pacific CSR team has pulled together its resources to help clean up Koblerville with debris.
IMPERIAL PACIFIC CSR

Nation

US suspends enforcement of travel ban, DOJ moves to appeal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government on Saturday suspended enforcement of President Donald Trump's refugee and immigration ban and filed notice it would appeal a judge's order, plunging the new administration into a crisis that has challenged Trump's authority—and ability to fulfill campaign promises.

The stand-down, a day after a federal judge in Washington state temporarily blocked the ban, marked an extraordinary setback for the White House. Only a week ago, the president had acted to suspend America's refugee program and halt immigration to the U.S. from seven Muslim-majority countries that the government said raise terrorism concerns.

As the White House worked to reinstate the ban, Trump mocked U.S. District Judge James Robart, appointed by President George W. Bush, as a "so-called judge" whose "ridiculous" ruling "will be overturned." He added in a subsequent tweet: "Because the ban was lifted by a judge, many very bad and dangerous people may be pouring into our country. A terrible decision."

Trump's direct attack recalled his diatribes during the campaign against a federal judge of Mexican heritage who was overseeing a Trump



University case. Justice Department lawyers could be called upon to answer for his words as the travel ban case reaches the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The order had caused unending confusion for many foreigners trying to reach the United States, prompted protests across the United States and led to multiple court challenges. Demonstrations took

place outside the White House, in New York and elsewhere. One was planned later Saturday near the estate in Palm Beach, Florida, where Trump was spending the weekend and where the American Red Cross scheduled its annual fundraising gala.

Robart's ruling, which the White House said the Justice Department would challenge, led federal agencies to unwind enforcement of Trump's executive order. Justice filed notice Saturday it would appeal the ruling.

"We'll win," Trump told reporters Saturday night as

he attended the annual gala of the American Red Cross at his private club. "For the safety of the country, we'll win."

The State Department, after initially saying that as many as 60,000 foreigners from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen had their visas canceled, reversed course on Saturday and said they could travel to the U.S. if they had a valid visa.

The department on Saturday advised refugee aid agencies that refugees set to travel before Trump signed his order will now be allowed into the

United States. A State Department official said in an email obtained by The Associated Press that the government was "focusing on booking refugee travel" through Feb. 17 and working to have arrivals resume as soon as Monday.

The Homeland Security Department no longer was directing airlines to prevent visa-holders affected by Trump's order from boarding U.S.-bound planes. The agency said it had "suspended any and all actions" related to putting in place Trump's order, which the White House argued was

Protesters march along Pennsylvania Avenue past the Trump International Hotel during a rally protesting the immigration policies of President Donald Trump, near the White House in Washington, Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017.

"intended to protect the homeland."

The Justice Department was expected to ask the 9th Circuit to set aside Robart's ruling so the ban could go back into effect.

Trump made clear what he thought of Robart's action.

"The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned," Trump tweeted. "When a country is no longer able to say who can and who cannot come in & out, especially for reasons of safety & security—big trouble!"

After a pause of several hours, the president returned to Twitter: "What is our country coming to when a judge can halt a Homeland Security travel ban and anyone, even with bad intentions, can come into U.S.?"

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, criticized Trump for "attempting to bully and disparage yet another federal judge" and said he seemed "intent on precipitating a constitutional crisis." Trump's rhetoric also could put government lawyers defending his order in a tough spot.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police recover baby in stolen car; suspect shoots self

DEVILS LAKE, N.D. (AP)—An attempt to stop a pickup truck with a loud exhaust system led to a wild chase in which the driver shot at a trooper, stole a car with a baby inside and eventually barricaded himself inside an apartment, where he shot and wounded himself, authorities said. Only the pickup truck's driver, Daniel TwoHearts, was hurt during the ordeal, which began Thursday night with the attempted traffic stop in Grand Forks and ended Friday night with TwoHearts shooting himself in an apartment in Devils Lake, about 80 miles west, authorities said. TwoHearts, who shot himself as officers began to negotiate with him to surrender, was hospitalized with an apparently non-fatal wound, Devils Lake police Capt. John Barnett told the Devils Lake Journal (<http://bit.ly/2k6IU3F>). TwoHearts' condition was unknown Saturday.

Priest abuse victims' group founder resigns after 29 years

CHICAGO (AP)—The founder of the group that advocates for priest abuse victims has stepped down after three decades of campaigning to force the Catholic Church to recognize the extent of the scandal and compensate thousands of people affected. Barbara Blaine, president and founder of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, said she was abused herself and the organization was created through her efforts to reach out to other victims, the Chicago Tribune reported (<http://trib.in/2jMvDzJ>). "I knew there were other survivors out there and wondered if they felt the same debilitating hurt and if so, how they coped with it. I thought they might hold the wisdom I lacked. I looked for other survivors and asked if they would be willing to talk," Blaine said in a statement. Blaine did not say why she resigned. She and several other top SNAP officials were sued last month by a former employee who says she was fired shortly after asking superiors whether SNAP was referring potential clients to attorneys in return for donations.

Trump throws Washington into state of anxious uncertainty

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two weeks into his presidency, Donald Trump has thrown Washington into a state of anxious uncertainty.

Policy pronouncements sprout up from the White House in rapid succession.

Some have far-reaching implications, most notably Trump's temporary refugee and immigration ban, but others disappear without explanation, including planned executive actions on cybersecurity and the president's demand for an investigation into unsubstantiated voter fraud.

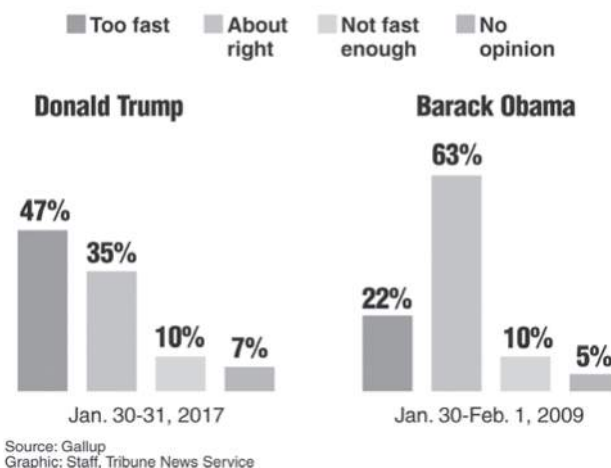
The day's agenda can quickly be overtaken by presidential tweets, which often start flashing on smartphones just as the nation's capital is waking up.

"The last two weeks feel like six months," said Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky.

Indeed, the effect on Washington—as well as the network of lobbyists, businesses and other interest groups that orbit the political power centers—has been dizzying, be-

Is Trump moving too fast?

Do you think _____ is moving too fast in addressing the major problems facing the country today?



yond the normal commotion that typically accompanies a White House transition. One official compared it to walking through a sandstorm, grasping for a moment of clarity.

For Trump, a frenetic pace of activity and seemingly haphazard style is as much a part of his political brand as his signature promise to build a

border wall. In business and as a candidate, he used controlled chaos to keep his rivals off balance and appears to be taking a similar approach to governing.

At times, Trump's style has tripped up his own White House.

After an early morning tweet calling for an inves-

tigation into voter fraud, Trump's advisers announced that the president planned to sign an order to begin an inquiry. An Oval Office event was scheduled and members of the media were assembled. But the signing was abruptly scrapped and the investigation appears to have been shelved.

The president's advisers have taken some steps in recent days to try to alleviate some of the anxiety gripping Washington, including coordinating more closely with Republican lawmakers ahead of the signing of executive orders and giving more deference to the agencies putting in place the refugee ban.

But uncertainty still remains the capital's prevailing mood. Just on Saturday, the departments of State and Homeland Security said they were stopping enforcement of the travel ban after a federal judge put the order on hold. The White House promised a prompt legal appeal.

Asia

New Pentagon chief an instant hit in Japan, S. Korea

TOKYO (AP)—In his debut abroad as the first retired general to lead the Pentagon in more than half a century, Jim Mattis found that in Japan and South Korea his experience in uniform is seen as an asset.

Not everyone who knows Mattis well in the U.S. shares that view, but he clearly was an instant hit in northeast Asia.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was effusive in his endorsement as the two shook hands Friday before a phalanx of Japanese and international news reporters and cameras.

"I was very encouraged," Abe said, "to see someone like you who has substantial experience, both in the military and in security, defense and diplomacy, taking this office."

Mattis won easy confirmation by the U.S. Senate just hours after President Donald Trump's swearing in on Jan. 20. But some had questioned the wisdom of breaking a long American tradition of picking defense secretaries with primarily civilian backgrounds.

In fact it has been more than a tradition. There is a legal prohibition on appointing a defense secretary who has not been out of uniform for at least seven years. Mattis retired from a 41-year career in the Marine Corps in 2013. The Congress had to pass a bill making a one-time exception for Mattis, who was widely praised as a thoughtful, level-headed leader.

The only other time in histo-



AP
U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, left, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, right, shake hands at the prime minister's office in Tokyo, Friday, Feb. 3, 2017.

ry that such an exception was made was for George C. Marshall, the former Army chief of staff who had served as secretary of state before President Harry Truman picked him as defense secretary in September 1950, at a crucial point in the just-started Korean War.

Abe noted that Mattis's military career included a stint on Okinawa, which the U.S. returned to Japanese control in 1972 based on an agreement signed a year earlier to end the

postwar period of U.S. military control.

"So I believe that you are quite familiar with the situation surrounding Japan," he said.

In Seoul, where civilian control of the military has a mixed history, Mattis's counterpart, Han Min Koo, portrayed him as a kindred spirit. Han told reporters he knew why they were able to forge a bond in their very first meeting.

"I believe this was possible because we both served as

active-duty servicemen for 40-plus years," Han said.

Mattis was not shy, either, about highlighting his military background. In Tokyo he recalled training in Okinawa and elsewhere in Japan as a newly minted lieutenant in 1972. He said he made Japanese acquaintances that have lasted a lifetime.

Asia is hardly Mattis's forte, however. He spent the bulk of his career focused on the Middle East, including com-

bat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also served as NATO supreme allied commander in Europe, from 2007 to 2009.

In picking Mattis, 66, to lead the Pentagon, Trump seemed enamored of the general's popular nickname, "Mad Dog," as if this served as a warning to the world not to mess with America.

Mattis, however, insists that the nickname was a media invention that he does not

embrace. He certainly came across as anything but "mad" or rabid on his visits to Japan and South Korea. He was a picture of sober restraint at his several public appearances, including a news conference Saturday in Tokyo.

He expressed caution on Iran, saying its adventurism did not mean the U.S. should send more military forces to the Middle East. And he called for diplomacy to address China's militarization of disputed islands and land formations in the South China Sea.

Even some of his biggest admirers have questioned, however, whether he is the right man for Trump's Pentagon. One such skeptic is Erin Simpson, a noted defense strategist who wrote about a prospective Secretary Mattis last fall, before he had been selected.

"Not only does the role of secretary of defense not play to Mattis' strengths," she wrote, "but success in that role would compromise much of what we admire most in him: his bluntness, clarity and single-minded focus on war fighting. The secretary's job is by necessity much more political than all that."

PH president says he won't resume talks with rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Saturday he would scrap peace talks with communist rebels and asked several rebel leaders who were freed for the negotiations to return to prison or face arrests in the latest blow to efforts to peacefully settle one of Asia's longest-running rebellions.

Duterte said at a late-night news conference in southern Davao city that he would ask government negotiators not to participate in talks with the Maoist guerrillas scheduled to resume this month in Norway, repeating that "peace with the communists might not come in this generation."

Duterte made his remarks a day after he lifted the government's 6-month-old cease-fire with the rebels and ordered troops to prepare for new fighting after the guerrillas abandoned their own truce and killed six soldiers in fresh violence.

Some of the soldiers were killed like wild pigs and raked

with gunfire, Duterte angrily said.

"I'm not ready to resume," Duterte said. "I will request the Philippine contingent to fold their tents and to come home."

Asked if he was scrapping the talks, Duterte said, "Yes, entirely," adding that the peace negotiations could resume after his six-year term ends in 2022.

Though his talk was tough, Duterte said he may reconsider his decision if there was a compelling reason, but did not elaborate. Resuming talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, and Muslim rebel groups was one of his key campaign promises, along with launching a crackdown against illegal drugs.

"I tried everything. I walked the extra mile, released prisoners, released their leaders so they can go to Oslo to talk," Duterte said, but added that the guerrillas have made excessive demands, including the release of more than 400 mostly captured rebels and left-wing detainees.

Freeing such a large number of rebel allies amounted to a general amnesty, which usually comes at the end of successful peace negotiations, he said, suggesting that he would lose a bargaining chip if he yielded to the rebels' demand.

Duterte called on several rebel leaders, who were freed to join the peace talks in Europe as consultants, to fly back to the country and return to prison, threatening to ask the police to arrest them if they will refuse.

There was no immediate comment from the rebels.

The hostile moves are a blow to ongoing talks brokered by Norway that have progressed steadily in recent months toward the goal of ending one the 48-year Marxist insurgency, which has left about 40,000 combatants and civilians dead.

The rebels and the government declared separate cease-fires last year as they resumed peace talks. That allowed the government to withdraw troops

from battlefields to focus on a monthslong offensive against the Abu Sayyaf and other Muslim extremist groups in three battlefronts in the south.

The prospect of new fighting with the Maoist rebels, estimated to number 3,700, comes after Duterte announced that he would enlist the already overburdened military in his anti-drug crackdown after prohibiting the national police and the National Bureau of Investigation—the Philippine counterpart of America's FBI—from enforcing his brutal campaign due to corruption and an extortion scandal.

The rebels announced Wednesday that they would halt their cease-fire Feb. 10 after accusing the government of reneging on earlier pledges to free more left-wing detainees and raising concerns over Duterte's brutal anti-drug crackdown and his allowing the burial of long-dead dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a heroes' cemetery.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesians, Filipinos protest Trump's immigration policy

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian and Filipino students on Saturday protested President Donald Trump's immigration policy outside the U.S. embassies in their capitals. In Jakarta, dozens of students and activists from several rights groups called on the Indonesian government and the international community to help stop Trump's order that temporarily banned travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries. They do not include Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, and the Philippines, a key U.S. ally. However, Indonesia is home to nearly 14,000 refugees seeking resettlement in third countries, and Trump's ban will significantly impact their chances of going to the U.S., said rights activist Veronica Koman, who orga-

nized the protest.

Avalanche kills 13 people in Pakistan's north

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani security official says at least 13 people have been killed in an avalanche that buried five homes following heavy snowfall in the country's north. Nizamud Shah, the commander of Chitral Scouts force, says the avalanche struck the town of Chitral late Saturday. He says rescuers have retrieved 13 bodies and efforts are underway to reach any survivors. Shah said Sunday several people are still missing and that most of the areas in Chitral are covered in snow. Avalanches are common in Pakistan's scenic north, where the country's major glaciers are also located. These glaciers are the main source of surface water for Pakistan's agriculture, industrial and domestic sectors.

Life & Style

Super Bowl advertisers tread carefully in divisive climate

NEW YORK (AP)—Super Bowl advertisers are treading carefully this year to avoid alienating customers as a divisive political climate takes some of the buzz away from what is usually the biggest spectacle on TV.

Ad critic Barbara Lippert says that while “people need an escape,” like the Super Bowl, this year’s matchup on the field feels “so much less important than what’s going on politically.”

To get the attention back, some advertisers are turning to nostalgia, celebrities and marketing stunts. P&G is sexing up Mr. Clean, Honda is featuring nine celebrities and Snickers is running a live ad.

Others are touching on social issues, without being too blunt about it. Budweiser won the pre-game buzz with a sweeping cinematic ad showcasing founder Adolphus Busch’s 1857 immigration from Germany to St. Louis. Although it has been in the works since May, the ad felt topical, as it was released online just days after President Donald Trump’s travel ban against people from seven Muslim-majority countries. The ad got more than 8 million views on YouTube in just four days.

Although many brands released ads online ahead of time, there will still be surprises during Fox’s Super Bowl broadcast Sunday. At \$5 million for a 30-second spot, and an expected U.S. audience of more than 110 million, the pressure is on.



This photo provided by Mercedes-Benz USA shows an image from the company’s “Easy Driver” Super Bowl 51 commercial.

TIPTOEING AROUND POLITICS

Audi’s spot addresses gender equality as a man muses about his daughter receiving equal pay as men one day.

Building supplies retailer 84 Lumber had to revise its original ad because a scene featuring a border wall was deemed too controversial by Fox. The new ad shows a Mexican woman and her daughter making a trip by foot across Mexico. The ad’s ending will be revealed at halftime at <http://journey84.com>; the website suggests excised footage will be shown.

And Kia attempts a humorous approach. In an ad for the Niro car, Melissa McCarthy

takes on political causes like saving whales, ice caps and trees, each time to disastrous effect. The message: “It’s hard to be an eco-warrior, but it’s easy to drive like one” with a fuel-efficient Niro.

Though advertisers are being extra careful, taking on any sort of political topic might backfire, says Mark DiMassimo, CEO of ad agency DiMassimo Goldstein. Against the backdrop of an “emboldened, enraged or traumatized audience,” he says, themes that might have been innocuous in the past “seem more strident and jarring this year.”

STUFFED WITH CELEBRITIES

In turbulent times, brands can

count on celebrities to ensure goodwill among consumers.

And why use one celebrity when you can have many? In Honda’s ad, the high-school yearbook photos of Amy Adams, Steve Carell, Viola Davis, Missy Elliott, Tina Fey, Magic Johnson, Jimmy Kimmel, Stan Lee and Robert Redford come to life with special effects. The animations encourage people to follow their dreams in a nod to Honda’s longtime slogan, “The Power of Dreams.”

Website hosting company Squarespace shows an intense John Malkovich berating the owner of johnmalkovich.com domain name.

Justin Bieber shows off dance moves to tout T-Mobile cell-

phone offerings. For the baby boomer crowd, Mercedes-Benz shows a biker gang being amazed by Peter Fonda’s AMG GT roadster to the tune of Steppenwolf’s “Born to be Wild.”

“The proliferation of athletes and more personalities is a reflection of not taking too much risk,” says Kelly O’Keefe from Virginia Commonwealth University’s advertising graduate program. “When in doubt get a personality.”

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Anheuser-Busch joins Mercedes-Benz in trying to reach consumers with nostalgia. The brewer’s ad shows a mountain man opening a can of Busch beer to the sound of “Buschh-

hhh.” It’s a nod to the brand’s ad campaign, introduced in 1978, which lasted for decades.

Meanwhile, Bud Light is bringing back the ghost of its 1980s spokesdog Spuds Mackenzie—literally. In its ad, the dog appears as a ghost dangling in the air, urging a Bud Light drinker to go out and join his friends, like the ghosts in the holiday classic “A Christmas Carol.”

And P&G sexes up its Mr. Clean mascot, introduced as an animated character in 1958. In the new ad, he distracts a woman as he cleans her kitchen.

“Emotions are the secret sauce of getting people to do things, and nostalgia is a great reason for people to pay attention,” says Devra Prywes of video analytics firm Unruly.

HERE’S TO HEALTH

After 10 years, Frito-Lay has retired its “Crash the Super Bowl!” campaign for Doritos. Those ads, created by consumers, were usually filled with slapstick humor.

Taking its place? A healthier approach. PepsiCo is featuring its new bottled water called LifeWTR and its sugar-free soft drink, Pepsi Zero Sugar. Bai Brands investor Justin Timberlake helps promote the company’s antioxidant-infused drinks. And one of Wonderful Co.’s 15-second ads promotes the health benefits of its pistachios.

Avocados from Mexico is focusing on its “healthy fats” in a humorous ad showing a secret society subliminally influenced by Jon Lovitz to chow down on guacamole.

Wedding is not the stage for ex-best friends’ drama

DEAR ABBY: One of my best friends just got engaged and I’m invited to the wedding. My problem is, my ex-best friend is in the bridal party, and I don’t know how to act if I see her and have to talk to her. She terminated our friendship without giving me a reason. Not only that, she has been spreading lies about me to mutual friends, some of whom now refuse to talk to me.

I have no idea what I did or didn’t do. No one knows why she is spreading rumors, and I don’t want there to be drama at my friend’s wedding and bachelorette party. What can I do?

UNSURE IN THE WEST

DEAR UNSURE: If your former best friend is unwilling to explain why she ended the friendship and has been spreading false rumors, you can’t force her. Obviously, her malicious lies haven’t had any effect on the bride.

Go to the party and the wedding, mingle with those who haven’t chosen sides, be gracious and steer clear of the nasty bridesmaid, if you can. That way, if there is any drama at either function, you won’t be the person who created it, and the person who will look bad will be the troublemaker.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Could you please explain why so many people blow their noses at the supper table? You would think older folks would know better, but it seems like they are the worst

offenders. I see a lot of this in restaurants or the cafeteria. I not only consider it rude but also gross.

Why can’t people excuse themselves from the table and leave the room to do it? I generally go to the ladies room or, if I’m home, go into another room. My mother and brother do this—and it’s disgusting! What is your view on this? Maybe you could teach some of these folks some manners.

GROSSED OUT IN FLORIDA

DEAR GROSSED OUT: Please don’t think you are alone with your frustration because I’m asked this question a lot. I agree that listening to someone honk like a migrating goose is unpleasant. That’s why the rule of etiquette states that those who need to clear their heads excuse themselves from the table. If someone must perform this function at the table, it should be limited to tiny dabs with a tissue to prevent a drip.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am the mom of two sons, ages 13 and 14. When I took them for their annual physical last summer, their pediatrician said this would be the last year I would be in the room while he examined my sons.

I don’t understand why I should have to leave if my children are OK with my being there. My sons are comfortable with me, and I am an only parent. It seems to me that more and more rights are being taken away from parents. Am I out

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



of line for feeling this way?

EXAM ROOM OFF-LIMITS

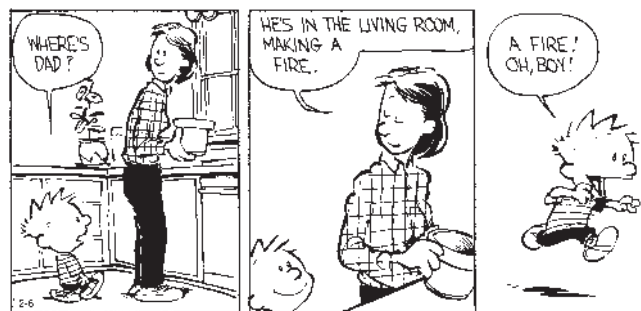
DEAR OFF-LIMITS: Yes, if you trust your sons’ doctor, which I hope you do. By ages 13 and 14, your sons are maturing into manhood. As their hormones and bodies change, they may have questions and concerns they would be more comfortable—and less embarrassed—talking to a male doctor about than their mother. Privacy in the examination room would give them the chance to do that.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Door feature

5 One-time link

8 Emmy-winning actress Daly

12 Of a community

14 Calendar quota

15 Fit together

16 Mafia boss

17 Passing craze

18 Island greetings

20 Vinegar bottle

23 Shapeless mass

24 "Ironside" star

25 Prying tool

28 Snake's sound

29 Alan Ladd Western

30 Sass

32 Iowa native

DOWN

13 Coup d'—

19 Actor Rob

20 "60 Minutes" network

21 Hurry

22 Celestial bear

23 Heehaws

25 Lab workers

26 Jai —

27 Saturn feature

29 Revue segment

31 Corral

33 Jots down

34 "Pop Goes the —"

36 Loving

37 Not us

38 Aviation prefix

39 Millinery

43 Like some humor

44 Praise in verse

45 Fanatic

46 Family docs

Solution time: 28 mins.

R	A	T	P	R	O	P	A	S	F
I	D	A	I	F	A	R	N	O	F
T	A	B	T	U	F	F	C	G	L
G	A	M	S	G	O	O	N	S	
S	W	E	D	E	T	S	A	R	
H	I	T	S	A	P	C	M	A	T
A	S	E	E	V	E	R	Y	A	S
H	E	D	O	N	I	S	T	F	R
J	O	K	E	D	E	C	O	L	
O	P	E	L	T	A	R	H	E	L
S	E	N	E	I	O	I	O	T	O
S	C	O	T	T	A	C	O	S	P

Friday's answer 2-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rick Astley, 51; Axl Rose, 55; Kathy Najimy, 60; Tom Brokaw, 77.

Happy Birthday: Follow through with your ideas, plans and your dreams. Turn something you love to do into a bigger part of your life. Invest more time in yourself and the people you enjoy being with. Take the initiative to get involved in making your home and family life better. Making positive changes is up to you, so get moving. Your numbers are 3, 10, 21, 27, 30, 42, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put more energy into your relationships. Make an effort to compromise and play fair. Good things will happen if you are helpful and encourage others in their efforts. Plan your actions and budget your time carefully. Romance is featured. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Enjoying what you do will make it easier to do a good job. Use a little ingenuity and approach your responsibilities in a unique and interesting way and you will come up with ideas that will make you more marketable. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take the high road and don't be influenced by what others do. Live within your means and take what you do seriously. Live life with integrity and treat other people with kindness and compassion. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't stress out when you should be concentrating on the people and projects that bring you joy. Don't be afraid to do things differently or to say "no" to the demands being put on you by others. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's up to you to bring about changes. Self-improvement projects, educational pursuits and partnerships are all favored. Get involved in networking groups and you will discover opportunities you didn't know existed. Travel, adventure and serious relationships will transform your life. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't lose out just because someone is putting unreasonable demands on your time. Take care of what needs to be done quickly and move on to projects, events or activities that will ensure that your interests are met. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expand your mind. Delve into the unknown or sign up for a retreat. Knowledge will be enlightening and give you a better perspective when it comes to dealing with children, family and affairs of the heart. Travel and education are encouraged. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look for unusual ways to improve your surroundings without being excessive or going into debt. It's important to maintain financial stability if you want to avoid adding more stress to your life. Hard work will bring the most satisfying improvements. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take every opportunity you can to gain ground and get your way. Your charm and winning attitude will be difficult for others to resist. Drum up support and make your way to the finish line. Romance is favored. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Bide your time. Don't limit what you can do or take on assignments that deter you from reaching your goals. Set priorities and map out your course of action to ensure that you will not fall short. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's full steam ahead. Don't look back or sideways, just keep moving forward until you reach your destination and are satisfied with the results you are getting. Take control of your life and do what's best for you. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have to control your emotions and let your creative mind take over if you want to get past the barriers that stand in your way. A unique approach will impress someone who will recommend you for future projects. ★★

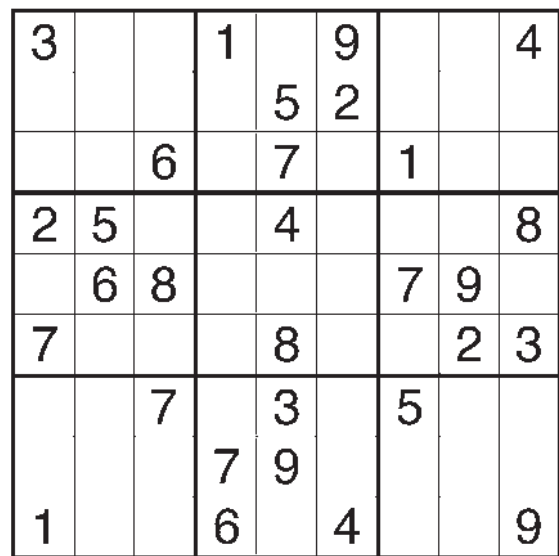
Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, creative and goal-oriented. You are charismatic and compassionate.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

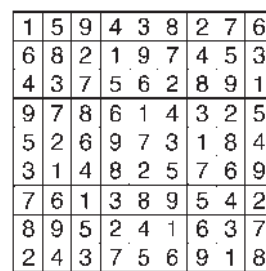


Difficulty Level ★

2:06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer



Bobby Levy ★★★★★

2:07

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

EXTINCT SPORTS AND GAMES

Solution: 8 letters

A S A S U T S U A E O V L A S
B H N G N A P A N C A I D R G
L I C A N A E R N I A R T O N
E N I E U I P M E D E A L O I
W K E B P M P D A M A L U R T
H I N T A E A M R G I J U A O
A C T D G N R C A A U T P B O
C K P L I R D U H C G L L M H
K I J O U S T Y P I L O U A S
E N O N O D C A W A A S N T N
T G K K F L O U B I T W G S O
S T I G G O L N S L C O E M E
A D R E T A W E U R E K L A G
S A T A L O V D P L A Y E E I
Q U O I T S A S T S E U Q T P

©2017 Andrew Wiles. www.wonderword.com. Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/6

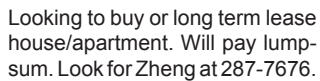
Able Whackets, Adults, Ancient, Austus, Bandy Wicket, Caid, Camping, Chapan, Cuju, Deal, Dice, Discus, Game, Joust, Kids, Knurr, Loggits, Ludo, Naumachia, Pecha, Pelota, Pigeon Shooting, Play, Plunge, Pool, Pure, Oquests, Quoits, Salvo, Shin Kicking, Snapdragon, Spell, Table, Tambaroora, Teams, Timer, Town Ball, Train, Ulama, Volata, Water

Last Friday's Answer: Princess Leia
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS



WANTED

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL

Email: opp17@yahoo.com

Qualified Women, Minorities Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.



NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper.

Please call 235-NEWS

**Offers the following services:**

- **Boom Truck & Moving Services**
- **Masonry** _____
- **Carpentry** _____
- **Painting** _____
- **Plumbing** _____
- **Tree Removal/Land Clearing** _____
- **New House Construction** _____

Call: 670.989-2600 or 670.588-2600



Website: www.developcnmi.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.



TRIPLE J RESTAURANT GROUP
accepting applications for the following positions:

- **COOK**
- **KITCHEN HELPERS**
- **BAKER**
- **SERVERS**

No phone calls please, email resume to:

hrtjsaipan@triplejsaipan.com

Triple J offers competitive benefits and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: Once upon a time

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

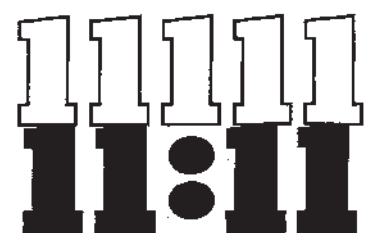
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dinghatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

POI Aviation

Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

Avionics Technician (1)

Requires: High School graduate/GED or Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program. FCC license or NCATT certification or an equivalent foreign license. Four (4) years experience in an avionics/electrical career field; or two (2) years of accredited schooling in aviation electronics and two (2) years related experience. Performs various troubleshooting and evaluation of aircraft avionics systems; removal and installation of panels and components; and repair work. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (7)

Requires: Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Performs various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (3)

Requires: Diploma from technical/vocational course on automotive/diesel engines with minimum of 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines for automobiles and other specialized motorized equipment. Performs mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Must also be skilled in parts fabrication. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Load Planning Specialist (1)

Requires: Associate's Degree with 2 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner. Ensures that aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements, ensuring that the aircraft's operational or structural limitations are not exceeded. Must be computer-literate and can perform manual weight and balance calculations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Senior Airport Service Supervisor (1)

Requires: Associates Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. Five years of airport passenger handling with at least two years of supervisory position. Monitor operational plans, provides leadership to agents, lead agents and junior supervisors to achieve consistently high quality services to customers in compliance with standard operating procedures and KPI's. Knowledge of all passenger (reservations, ticketing and departure control system), aircraft services functions (aircraft cleaning equipment, tools and materials), and the airline industry. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Airport Service Supervisor (1)

Requires: Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. One to two years equivalent work experience. Provides assistance and customer service to passengers by performing various customer service duties in the airport such as check-in, reservations, baggage and processing. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Airport Service Agent (Aircraft) (2)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Performs interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Must be knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Airport Service Agent (Passenger) (2)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Assists passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/ reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Chinese. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Airport Service Agent (Foreign Language) (6)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least 2 years' experience working as Passenger Service agent or on any related field of work. Fluency in a specific foreign language (Chinese/Korean) is required. Foreign Language speaking interpreters must effectively convert the verbal communication of one of these languages (Chinese/Korean) into the verbal form of the other. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician (1)

Requires: AS Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering with 4 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Airport Service Agent (Aircraft) (1)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials. Must be able to obtain CNMI driver's license. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Airport Service Agent (Passenger) (4)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, assisting passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Cargo) (1)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience as a cargo handler. Handles and accepts cargoes according to the IATA, FAA, TSA, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, preparing documents for out-going and transfer cargoes. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo-handling equipment and be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Must be proficient in the use of CSP Cargo Trac System. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Ramp) (3)

Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in ramp cargo loading and unloading operations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, operating equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircraft. Ability to teach operation of specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Technical Operations Supervisor (1)

Requires: Diploma from technical / vocational course on automobile gas / diesel engines with minimum 4 years experience with a supervisory capacity in electrical, electronic, pneumatic, hydraulic system and gas / diesel engine maintenance. Plans work and supervises mechanics in performing mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Terminal Operations Supervisor (1)

Requires: Associate's degree in related field. Five (5) years equivalent work experience. Specific airline certification as load planner. Sufficient mathematical skills to perform manual weight and balance calculations. Thorough knowledge in all areas of ramp, cargo and flight operations. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Accountant (1)

Requires: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with 2 years of progressive experience in accounting, Airline industry experience preferred. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software.

Accounting Manager (1)

Requires: College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Interested applicants may send their applications to recruitment@poiaviation.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than February 15, 2017. Applications for employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 17-007

Opening Date: Friday, January 27, 2017
Closing Date: Thursday, February 09, 2017

Revised
Senior Administrative Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the CUC Board of Director or his/her designee. Assist the CUC Board of Director's Secretary on Board of Director Meetings, Personnel Committee Meetings, and Operations Committee Meetings. Perform transcribing of Board Meeting minutes. Performs specialized, advanced office and administrative support activities of assigned division or specialty area; provides administrative support, coordination and project assistance to assigned management. Reviews, verifies, processes, prepares and distributes various documents, reports, contracts, change orders, timekeeping records, schedules, specifications, billing documents, and/or other departmental documentation. Provides internal and external customer service by responding to inquiries and information requests, contacting appropriate resources to gather pertinent information, and providing documents, information or specifications for required resources or services. Enters and maintains data in systems; retrieves and reviews system information; performs research as needed to gather pertinent data; reconciles errors or inconsistent data; makes applicable corrections and updates to maintain data integrity. Maintains and organizes files, databases, and records; ensures retention of information in accordance with procedures and guidelines. Assists in tracking budgets and expenditures, project timelines, schedules, and/or document processes; prepares and distributes status updates and document revisions. Maintains and prepares requisitions for inventory, supply and equipment needs; monitors and identifies resource needs. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : CUC Board of Directors, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : (Salary commensurate with qualification and experience)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : One (1)

Minimum Requirements: Associate's Degree or High School Diploma/GED or ABE Program AS and 3 years of office experience related to area of assignment. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Generally accepted accounting principles; Financial analysis principles and techniques; Advanced mathematical concepts; Research methods; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Providing guidance and leading work activities (based on assignment); Prioritizing activities and meeting deadlines; Preparing financial information, adjustments and entries related to general ledger; Researching, compiling, calculating and reconciling data and information; Researching technical issues, solving problems and providing solutions; Monitoring and maintaining fiscal account information and reporting; Reconciling data, preparing adjustments and posting account and journal entries; Providing attention to accuracy and detail; Preparing reports, correspondence and related fiscal documentation; Providing customer service; Providing technical guidance related to financial systems; Maintaining databases and financial records; Assisting with audits, inventory processes and/or equipment maintenance schedules; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy No.17-008

Opening Date: Friday, January 27, 2017
Closing Date: Thursday, February 09, 2017

LEGAL COUNSEL

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Reporting directly to CUC's Board of Directors and CUC's Chief Legal Counsel, Legal Counsel is entrusted with several matters. For example, when so instructed Legal Counsel will provide formal and informal legal advice to CUC management: Draft and review a broad range of legal documents, including legal opinions, proposed agency decisions, memoranda, contracts and other procurement documents. Legal counsel will represents CUC at a variety of meetings, negotiations and hearings; provide legal oversight of procurement contracts for goods, services and construction; assist CUC management, the board of Directors and Chief Legal Counsel with developing policy and regulations to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulatory policies, including both local and federal statutes; and investigate and implement necessary actions for compliance with laws and corporate policies. Legal Counsel works closely with Chief Legal Counsel and other outside counsel regarding ongoing litigation; advises CUC management and the Board of Directors of a variety of legal issues, including, but not limited to, billing disputes, human resource matters, property-related disputes, contract negotiations and interpretations, and personal-injury claims. .

LOCATION : CUC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
CONTRACT : ONE (1) YEAR CONTRACT WITH OPTION TO RENEW FOR ONE (1) YEAR
POSITION(S) : ONE (1)

REQUIREMENTS:

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Successful candidates for Legal Counsel must:

Hold a law degree from an accredited U.S. law school. Be a current member in good standing of the bar of any state within the United States, the CNMI or Guam. If not currently a member of the CNMI Bar, be eligible for prompt admission to the CNMI Bar. For admission requirements, visit http://www.cnmilaw.org/court_rules.htm. Have excellent interpersonal skills, be mature and self-sufficient, communicate effectively orally and in writing, and possess excellent professional judgment. **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Although not required, successful candidates preferably will have: Experience with utility law, federal and/or state energy regulatory law, and government procurement. Contract drafting and negotiation skills. Familiarity with working in a highly regulated industry. An understanding of the economics of electric power. A working knowledge of the legal and commercial issues involved in procurement, construction contracts, project finance, operations and maintenance agreements, and other utility project agreements. Experience working for or appearing before a federal regulatory agency. Strong business judgment and the ability to understand and respond to business issues and needs. Self-motivation, self-discipline and be results-oriented, with an ability to manage priorities and workflow. The ability to independently, and handle both small and large matters with equal effectiveness and enthusiasm. A background in finance, accounting, engineering or economics. The ability to manage multiple complex matters simultaneously. It is the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy No.17-006

Opening Date: Friday, January 13, 2017
Closing Date: Until Filled

Fiscal/Budget Officer

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Supervises professional and support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Supervises day-to-day accounting operations to include: reviewing and approving journal entries; reviewing entries from accounting modules; reviewing trial balance and financial statements; reviewing and maintaining subsidiary ledgers; analyzing problematic accounts; providing guidance to staff; and, monitoring and analyzing revenue and expenditures. Attends a variety of meetings and serves as a liaison between the department and other departments, organizations and agencies. Prepares a wide variety of financial and analytical reports and statements. Prepares annual budget by providing advice and guidance to division managers. Prepares budget reprogram and reclassification requests. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
POSITION : One (1)
SALARY : \$56,439.00 to \$76,192.00 per annum.
 (Salary is negotiable based on qualification and experience.)
CONTRACT : Two (2) Years.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field and four years of professional level accounting or finance experience including two years supervisory experience. Preferred Qualifications: Master's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field and six years of professional level accounting or finance experience including four years supervisory experience. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics. **Skill in:** Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Pre-employment drug testing required. Applicants may be tested.

Drop off CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resources Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131



We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

CLUBMATES

Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) COOK

Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) FRONT DESK CLERK

Minimum of one (1) year work experience, preferably in hospitality. Previous cashiering experience required. Fluency in Korean, Russian and/or Japanese languages is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays.

(1) LAUNDRY ATTENDANT

Minimum of three (3) months of work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PUBLIC AREA ATTENDANT

Minimum six (6) months of work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) SALES MANAGER (JAPAN MARKET)

Minimum of three (3) years of Sales experience in the hotel industry is required. Four (4) years College degree preferred. Proficiency in Japanese language (verbal, written, reading and understanding) as well as Japanese MS Office, Opera System, Site Minder and Japanese hotel booking systems is required. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, February 20, 2017.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.

Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Commonwealth Development Authority

2nd Floor CDA Bldg., Oleai, Saipan
 P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel: (670) 234-6245 Fax: (670) 235-7147
 Website: www.developcnmi.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION VACANCY: Comptroller, Ungraded
ANNUAL SALARY: Up to \$70,000
CLOSING DATE: To Be Announced

This position is an excepted service position. The incumbent in this position shall manage the Accounting Department and provide information primarily in nature to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. The incumbent shall also perform other functions as the Executive Director and the Board of Directors may require.

GENERAL DUTIES

- Oversees the activities of the Accounting Department for the accurate and timely dissemination of financial management reports including but not limited to, internal and external financial statements productions.
- Keeps the official books and accounts of the Authority
- Prepares an annual report of the financial condition of the Authority for the Board Directors.
- Prepares response to audit exceptions and recommend alternative solutions.
- Approves all accruals and journal entries for posting to the general ledger.
- Supervises and reviews the work of the accounting staff to assure the CDA's financial records are properly maintained and recorded.
- Tracks all of CDA's investments and make recommendations to increase income.
- Prepares and monitors in conjunctions with Bond Trustee designated Trust Department Officer a schedule of investments within the guidelines established by the Trust Agreement and the CDA Act with scheduled maturity dated to provide the quality of funds to meet the CNMI capital improvement projects local matching funds requirements. Said plan to be concurred by the Executive Director.
- Prepares financial statements and other documents as directed by the Executive Director and/or the Chairman of the Board during the development and underwriting of any bond issue.
- Maintains a profit and loss statement on all Bond issues and Trust Funds.
- Participates in a wide variety of special projects and compile a variety of special reports as requested by the Board of Directors.
- Reviews all CIP contracts and determine if fund certification is appropriate.
- Maintains financial records of all capital improvement projects funded by CDA and/or those for which CDA provided any local matching funds.
- Attends all CDA and DCD meetings.
- Establishes and maintain systems and controls which verify the integrity of all systems, process, and data.
- Provides training for the accounting employees.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

EDUCATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from a U.S. accredited college or university. Minimum of five (5) years of professional experience in government or financial accounting. U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred but not required. Must have knowledge of QuickBooks accounting software; Able to make legislative presentations and to interpret laws, contracts, ordinances, and regulations; Effectively communicate orally and in writing; Possesses a strong management skills; Proficient in MS Office applications; and Able to establish and maintain cooperative working relationship with others.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai or may be obtained on CDA's website at www.developcnmi.com.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.



Commonwealth Development Authority

2nd Floor CDA Bldg., Oleai, Saipan
 P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel: (670) 234-6245 Fax: (670) 235-7147
 Website: www.developcnmi.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION VACANCY: Economic Development Analyst, Excepted Service Position
ANNUAL SALARY: Ungraded \$50,000 - \$60,000
CLOSING DATE: To Be Announced

The objective of the position is to promote the Authority as the primary advocate or supporter by economic progress by working with both private and public sectors and developing good relations and communications with the local and international organization. The position is responsible for the day to day operation of the Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program as well as special projects required by CDA. Special projects may include but not limited to bond issues; entrepreneurial advancements; research and development; implementation of the new program; etc. This position is under the general supervision of the Executive Director.

GENERAL DUTIES

- Assists and entertains investor inquiries.
- Issues QC applications and investment packets and reviews business plans, impact statements, financial projections, contracts and other related documents.
- Supervises the work of the Business Development Specialist whose duties include compliance inspections of Beneficiaries or QC recipients and may perform the same.
- Examines various reports for validity and compliance with terms and conditions of the QC Program and reports on the same.
- Discusses findings of compliance inspections/monitoring or QC recipients, pointing out any discrepancies found and recommends methods of improvements to meet minimum standards of compliance.
- Develops, coordinates, and evaluates economic development programs.
- Formulates recommendations, policies, projects, or plans to stimulate economic growth in the CNMI.
- Promotes the image of the Authority as the primary advocate of business.
- Recommends any changes necessary to QC Rules and Regulations to improve the Program's effectiveness and efficiency.
- Undertakes special projects as assigned by the Executive Director and the Board of Directors and facilitates and coordinates special projects objectives.
- Attends and reports to the Board of Directors the activities of the department.
- Performs related work as assigned.

EDUCATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Bachelor's Degree in Economics or any business related field from a U.S. accredited university or college and a minimum of five (5) years management level experience in business related field. Knowledge of laws, regulations, policies and services of the Authority; knowledge of principles and practices, rules & regulations governing the QC Program; some familiarity of local laws including but not limited to Tax Law; Ability to effectively investigate, evaluate and formulate solutions; ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing; possesses strong management skills; and possesses good computer skills and proficient in MS Office applications.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai or may be obtained on CDA's website at www.developcnmi.com.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.

Whiteside, Heat win 10th straight, roll 76ers



MIAMI (AP)—Hassan Whiteside made everything look easy.

That's the Miami Heat way right now.

Whiteside scored 30 points and grabbed 20 rebounds in just 27 minutes, Dion Waiters scored 21 points on 10 shots and the Heat pushed their winning streak to 10 games with a 125-102 romp past the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday night.

Miami led by as many as 34, and shot a season-best 59 percent.

"We're not thinking about the win streak," Whiteside said. We're a whole different team than we were a month ago. Guys are healthy. Guys are playing together. We're a whole different team."

Goran Dragic had 16 points and eight assists for Miami, and Tyler Johnson also scored 16. The 10-game streak is the longest current one in the NBA, and ties Houston for the second-longest in the league this season. Golden State won 12 straight in November.

"It took us a while, with all the moving parts, to really understand what our identity is and what's important for us to be able to win basketball games," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We're getting better with it."

Whiteside had a double-double before the game was even 10 minutes old, and shot 14 for 17 from the field. The 30-20 game was the first of his career, and the ninth in Heat history including playoffs. It's only the second in the NBA this season, with Sacramento's DeMarcus Cousins having the other back in November.

"We couldn't guard him," 76ers coach Brett Brown said of Whiteside.

Ersan Ilyasova scored 21 for Philadelphia, which was without Joel Embiid, Jahlil Okafor and Robert Covington. Embiid missed his fifth straight game with a left knee problem, and Okafor sat with right knee soreness. Covington has a right hand contusion.

The 76ers were outrebounded 49-33.

"I thought we gave up too much everywhere," Philadelphia guard T.J. McConnell said. "You have to give them credit, though. They came out firing. We couldn't recover. We fought back and there wasn't enough. They punched us in the mouth again."

Without Embiid and Okafor, the 76ers went with Nerlens Noel starting off trying to guard Whiteside.

It didn't work.

Whiteside made his last eight shots of the first half, had 17 points and 11 rebounds be-



fore the first quarter was over, and the Heat were off and running. Miami led by as many as 18 early, took a 12-point lead into the half and then were up 100-75 going into the fourth.

Spurs 121, Nuggets 97

In San Antonio, Gregg Popovich became the most successful coach with a single franchise in NBA history after leading the San Antonio Spurs to a 121-97 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Saturday night.

Popovich earned his 1,128th victory to pass former Utah coach Jerry Sloan for the mark.

Kawhi Leonard led the Spurs with 19 points in San Antonio's final home game before playing eight games on the road during its annual rodeo road trip. Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker each added 18 points for the Spurs.

Jamal Murray scored 20 points off the bench and Nikola Jokic had 11 in 15 minutes for Denver.

Kings 109, Warriors 106, OT

In Sacramento, California,

Draymond Green missed a 3-pointer from the top of the arc at the final buzzer after DeMarcus Cousins scored six of his 32 points in overtime and overcame several key mistakes as the Sacramento Kings' snapped a 13-game losing streak to the Golden State Warriors.

Stephen Curry's layup attempt with 4.9 seconds left clanked off the rim and the two-time reigning NBA MVP also missed a short jumper with 6.9 seconds left, but finished with 35. But Cousins failed to corral the rebound and the ball went out of bounds at the baseline to the Warriors for one more try with 6.2 ticks remaining.

Darren Collison scored 18 points and the bench added 45 for Sacramento.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr was ejected with 3:34 left in the third and had to be held back near midcourt by assistant coach Mike Brown as the reigning NBA Coach of the Year moved toward official Bill Spooner.

Pacers 105, Pistons 84

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 21 points to help the Indiana Pacers extend their season-best winning streak to six games with a victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Lavoy Allen had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Pacers, replacing an injured Thaddeus Young, who sat out with a sprained left wrist. Myles Turner, CJ Miles and Al Jefferson all finished with 13 points for Indiana.

Indiana took control of the game during a 20-5 run in the third quarter. A 10-point deficit entering the fourth quarter would prove to be too much to overcome for the Pistons.

Marcus Morris led Detroit with 19 points. Jon Leuer added 14 points and seven rebounds while Andre Drummond had 13 points and nine rebounds.

Cavaliers 111, Knicks 104

In New York, LeBron James had 32 points and 10 assists while Kevin Love added 23 points and 16 rebounds in his

AP
Miami Heat center Hassan Whiteside (21) shoots over Philadelphia 76ers forward Nerlens Noel (4) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017, in Miami.

return from back spasms as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the New York Knicks.

The Cavaliers won for the ninth straight time against the Knicks and didn't even need Kyrie Irving, who didn't play because of right quadriceps soreness.

Love was back after missing two games and showed why the NBA champions may have no reason to entertain the trade rumors involving him and Carmelo Anthony that surround the teams.

Brandon Jennings had 23 points and 10 assists in place of point guard Derrick Rose, who missed his fourth straight game with a sprained left ankle. Anthony and Courtney Lee each added 17 points.

James became the youngest player to surpass 28,000 points in leading the Cavs to their seventh straight win at Madison Square Garden.

Jazz 105, Hornets 98

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored 33 points as the Utah Jazz rallied to defeat the Charlotte Hornets.

The Jazz erased a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit with big contributions from Hayward, George Hill and Joe Johnson. A 19-4 run was capped by Johnson's 3-pointer from the corner that gave the Jazz a 103-96 lead with 59 seconds remaining. Hayward put on a show with a variety of step-backs and pull-ups and Johnson was a playmaker down the stretch. Hill finished with 25, including five 3-pointers.

The Hornets put on a shooting clinic from behind the arc in the third quarter but went cold in the fourth and scored just 16 points.

Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 18 points and Marvin Williams added 16 points and 12 rebounds. Frank Kaminsky finished with 15 points.

Hawks 113, Magic 86

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 21 points, all in the first three quarters, as the Atlanta Hawks never trailed in their runaway win over the Orlando Magic.

Tim Hardaway Jr. also had 21 points for Atlanta. Hardaway continued to make the most of his chance to start as Thabo Sefolosha missed his fourth straight game with a groin injury.

Millsap, Dennis Schroder and Dwight Howard sat out the fourth quarter. Schroder had 17 points and 10 assists.

Aaron Gordon led Orlando with 16 points. Elfrid Payton had 10 as Orlando's only other starter to score in double figures.

Wizards 105, Pelicans 91

In Washington, John Wall had 24 points and 13 assists while Markieff Morris scored 18 points as the Washington Wizards held New Orleans scoreless for the final 5:52 of the fourth quarter to beat the Pelicans for their seventh straight win.

Washington has its longest winning streak since a seven-game stretch from January 2005. The Wizards extended their home winning streak to 17 games, second-longest in franchise history.

Anthony Davis had 25 points and 10 rebounds to lead New Orleans, which lost its fourth straight. The Pelicans were held scoreless after Tyreke Evans hit a 3-pointer to take a 91-90 lead with 5:52 to play.

Grizzlies 107, Timberwolves 99

In Minneapolis, JaMychal Green scored a career-high 29 points as the short-handed Memphis Grizzlies grinded out a victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Mike Conley added 20 points and eight assists for the Grizzlies, who rested Marc Gasol, Tony Allen and Chandler Parsons on the second night of a back-to-back. The Grizzlies scored 21 points off of 13 turnovers by Minnesota and only turned it over 10 times.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 27 points and 16 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have lost three straight after showing some signs of life. The Wolves led by 18 points in the first half, but were outworked the rest of the way on a day they lost Zach LaVine for the remainder of the season with a knee injury.

Bucks 137, Suns 112

In Phoenix, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 30 points to lead six Milwaukee players in double figures as the Bucks snapped a five-game losing streak with a victory over the Phoenix Suns in their highest-scoring game of the season.

Devin Booker, whose 20-foot bank shot at the buzzer beat the Kings in Sacramento on Friday night, scored 31 points for the Suns, 27 during a blistering final 7:13 of the first half.

Ex-Sun Mirza Teletovic added 19 points and Jabari Parker had 18 for the Bucks while Rookie Marquese Chriss scored a career-high 27 points for Phoenix.

Ryan, Falcons, Cowboys big winners on NFL awards night



HOUSTON (AP) — Matt Ryan and the Dallas Cowboys were big winners

Saturday night.

The Atlanta Falcons quarterback was voted The Associated Press 2016 NFL's Most Valuable Player and top offensive player. Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott took Offensive Rookie of the Year and Jason Garrett was selected Coach of the Year by a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the league.

On the eve of the Super Bowl in which he will face off with two-time league MVP Tom Brady, who finished second in this year's balloting, Ryan easily outdistanced Brady 25-10 for MVP. He beat Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers 15½ to 11 for Offensive Player of the Year.

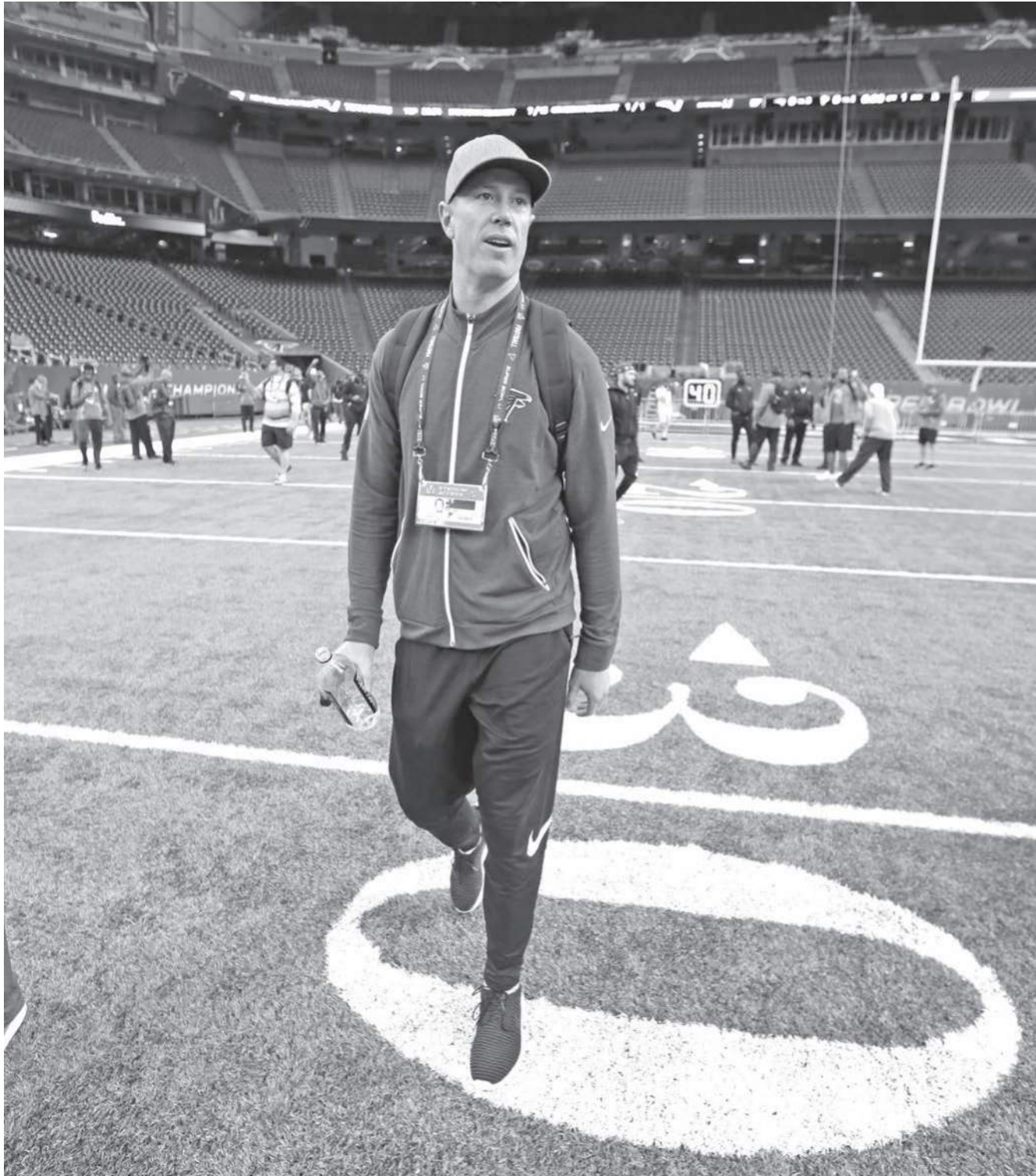
Ryan, of course, was not on hand at the "NFL Honors" TV show. But in a taped acceptance speech, he said:

"I just want to say thank you. This is an incredible honor for me. Obviously, there are so many other great candidates and players who had amazing seasons.

"I want to thank all my teammates. Obviously, without them, none of this is possible. We've had so many guys on our team make great plays and have great seasons for us, so thank you to those guys."

Garrett drew 25 votes for best coach, beating out New England's Bill Belichick (14).

"This is an extension of our football team and I really accept it on their behalf," said Garrett, who took over as Dallas coach in 2010. "I coach with some really great guys and I'm really fortunate to coach with so many great



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan walks on the field during a visit to NRG Stadium for a walk through on the eve of NFL Super Bowl 51 football game Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017, in Houston.

the Year.

Oakland edge rusher Khalil Mack slipped past 2016 Super Bowl MVP linebacker Von Miller for Defensive Player of the Year, 18-17.

San Diego lineman Joey Bosa won top defensive rookie honors in a landslide.

"I don't really set goals like this for myself very often, awards," said Bosa, who missed the first four games after a holdout. "But I definitely wanted this one. I'm really happy I got it done."

Cardinals receiver Larry Fitzgerald and Giants quarterback Eli Manning shared the Walter Payton Man of the Year award.

"Quite simply this is the most meaningful honor an NFL player can receive, and I am flattered beyond words that the selection committee deemed me worthy of it," Fitzgerald said. "More than anything it is a reflection on my parents whose words and example taught my brother and me the value of service and the importance of giving back."

Manning called it "an honor to be mentioned in the same breath with Walter Payton."

"None of us do what we do on behalf of charity or in our communities to get recognized," Manning added. "We do it because we truly care. You want to make a difference in people's lives and in our communities. But to be recognized and know that people do notice your work is nice."

players that go about it the right way, and it's really just an extension of that. It's a team award."

Prescott, in a two-man race with his running back, Ezekiel

Elliott, won 28½ to 21½. The QB brought the RB onstage to share in his special moment.

"He deserves it just as much as I do from his yards, his catches," Prescott said. "The

way we handled things in the backfield is always together."

Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, apparently headed to San Francisco after the Super Bowl to be head

coach of the 49ers, took the assistant coaching award.

Packers receiver Jordy Nelson, returning from a devastating knee injury, was selected Comeback Player of

HOUSTON (AP)—There's no hiding it. One edge the New England Patriots have over the Atlanta Falcons in Sunday's Super Bowl can't be denied: experience.

It's a factor never to be scoffed at when the AFC and NFC champions meet for the league title.

Sure, New England (16-2) has a bunch of young players—16 with four years or less in the NFL—and the Falcons (13-5) actually have four guys who have played in a Super Bowl: Dwight Freeney, Courtney Upshaw, Dashon Goldson and Philip Wheeler. Don't let that mislead you.

When a team has a quarterback and a coach in their seventh Super Bowl together, along with a slew of players who helped it win the championship just two years ago, well, that's the kind of experience that can be key.

Edge in experience could be telling in Super Bowl

Just ask Tom Brady.

"I've got a good regulation of my emotions and I know when I need to get amped up and I know when I need to relax a little bit, and I think you learn those things," said Brady, a three-time Super Bowl MVP who's 4-2 in the game.

"You kind of have to be right on the edge. It's such an emotional game. You don't want to be out of control, but you can't play with no emotion. You strike different chords for different emotions at different times."

That might sound strange coming from a player who rarely hides his feelings on the field. Just think back to his return game in Cleveland after his four-game "Deflategate" suspension, when Brady was pumping up Patriots fans on hand during warmups.

Yet he insists Super Bowl Sunday calls for moderation in approach.

"It's a long day," Brady said. "I mean it's a long day because it's been a long week because there's a lot of things you're doing. You're doing a lot more things this week than you normally do for a game week. Just to get to the game, it ends up being ... a four-hour game? A longer pregame and a longer halftime, so ... it ends up being 4½ to five hours.

"You've got to be able to have something left at the end of the game. You can't waste it all early in the third quarter."

A quick look back to New England's victory over Seattle in the 2015 Super Bowl shows

that Brady and the Patriots had plenty left. They rallied from a 10-point hole to win.

The Falcons aren't discounting the edge of having been down this path. Freeney, who won a ring with Indianapolis at the 2007 game, believes the mental approach is critical.

"I was 24 or 25 or whatever I was," he said of playing in the Colts' victory against Chicago. "My body and everything was just on a whole different level, which is to be expected at that age.

"I think that from a mental standpoint, it's appreciating the moment. Now it's a little bit better, because now I realized through time it's not something that you get to all the time.



ing attempts (1,263), completions (788), yards (8,628) and touchdowns (61). He has the most multi-touchdown games (19) and most career 300-yard games (11) in NFL playoff history. He will also become the first player to appear in seven Super Bowls, and with a victory would have the most rings, tied with Charles Haley.

Quite the resume. Plus, his surrounding cast includes some major contributors in other Super Bowls: Julian Edelman, LeGarrette Blount, Rob Ninkovich, Devin McCourty, Stephen Gostkowski ... shall we go on?

"Our role always changes," Brady said, "and still as a leader and as a veteran I still can express things to my younger teammates and see the things that they're going through, and try to help them through those things because I've been through those things.

Tomlinson, Warner, Davis part of 7-man Hall of Fame class

HOUSTON (AP)—The quarterback served as ringmaster for “The Greatest Show on Turf.” The running backs were known simply by their initials: LT and TD. And the receiver also known by two letters—TO—was on the outside looking in again.

All unstoppable in their own way, LaDainian Tomlinson, Terrell Davis and Kurt Warner earned their spots in the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday. Terrell Owens, though, got turned away in a decision that went viral on social media and led the receiver to blame a “flawed process” in an after-the-fact tweet.

Also making it were sackmaster Jason Taylor—in on his first ballot, the same as Tomlinson—and Morten Andersen, the NFL’s all-time leading scorer, who joins Jan Stenerud as the second pure placekicker to make the hall.

Seahawks safety Kenny Easley made it as a senior nominee, while Cowboys owner Jerry Jones is in as a contributor. Former NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue did not get in, with his role in downplaying the severity of the league’s concussion problem a factor in the vote.

Tomlinson’s victory shed a glimmer of light on a dark year for San Diego fans. The city lost its team, but gained a Hall of Famer.

“Those fans there inspired me to run harder, to dig deep-

er in times when I was tired in the fourth quarter and didn’t think I had anything left,” Tomlinson said.

In nine years with the Chargers, then two with the Jets, the 5-foot-10 Tomlinson reset the template for what had been known as a scatback, proving someone of his size and speed could be a game changer, not merely a change of pace.

As dangerous catching the ball (4,772 career yards) as he was running it (13,684), in 2003, LT became the first player to rush for 1,000 yards and catch 100 passes. His 31 touchdowns scored in 2006 are still the single-season record. He finished his career with 145 TDs, not counting the seven he threw on half-back options.

In giving the thumbs-up to Davis and Warner, the 48 Hall of Fame voters answered “Yes” to the question of whether a few truly dominating years are enough for someone to be enshrined.

Getting a big, fat “No” for the second straight year was Owens, the league’s second-leading all-time receiver, but also one of its most divisive players over a career that spanned 1996-2010.

“Unfortunately I DID NOT MAKE IT again this year,” Owens tweeted. “Thanks to ALL my fans & supporters. #FlawedProcess.”

Warner on Owens: “When you just look at what he



AP
In this Dec. 25, 2009, file photo, San Diego Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson (21) gets past Tennessee Titans defenders William Hayes (95) and Kyle Vanden Bosch (93) during an NFL football game in Nashville, Tenn. Blocking for Tomlinson is Mike Tolbert (35).

accomplished, everybody looks and says, ‘C’mon.’ The numbers are there, the impact is there.”

Warner’s heyday was 1999-2001 with the Rams, whose offense was known as “The Greatest Show on Turf.” Warner quit his job bagging groceries, first for a stint in the Arena League, then landing in the NFL after getting a tryout with St. Louis.

An injury to Trent Green thrust Warner into the lineup for 1999. Coach Dick Vermeil cried when he lost his supposed star quarterback. But he ended up with another. Warner went on to win two overall MVPs and one at the Super

Bowl to close the 1999 season, when the Rams captured their only Lombardi Trophy. The 1999 and 2000 teams are still among the top 10 in most points scored in league history.

“You’ve got to remember, he was crying at the time, because he didn’t believe it either,” Warner said. “We all had dreams. We all believed big things. We all expected greatness from ourselves. But I never would have expected ‘99.”

Davis was a sixth-round pick in 1995 who caught Broncos coach Mike Shanahan’s eye with a big hit on special teams in a preseason game. Davis became the start-

ing tailback, and from 1996-98 he helped the Broncos to 45 victories and finally pushed John Elway over the top with two Super Bowl titles. In 1998, Davis became the fourth runner to surpass 2,000 yards, with 2008.

He suffered a career-changing knee injury in 1999 while making a tackle after an interception, and played only 17 more games before retiring in 2001. His 78 career games spanned seven seasons, meaning Davis lasted the same number of years as Hall of Fame runner Gale Sayers, who is often held up as Exhibit A when voters are debating short bursts of greatness ver-

sus longevity.

“I really thought that there’s no way they’re going to put two backs in the same class, especially a guy that was a first ballot Hall of Famer versus a special circumstance guy like me,” Davis said. “I thought that’s what they saw me as. When I got the knock, obviously I was shocked.”

On the other end of the spectrum was Andersen, the kicker who lasted 25 seasons, played in 382 games and scored 2,544 points for five teams. He was among the first to make the 50-plus-yard field goal routine. His 40 kicks of 50-yards plus were the most in NFL history at his retirement.

Taylor was Defensive Player of the Year in 2006 with 13 1/2 sacks and finished his 15-year career, most of them with the Dolphins, with 139 1/2 sacks, eight interceptions and 29 fumble recoveries.

Easley was the hard-hitting Seattle safety who also played only seven seasons, but made them all count. He was Defensive Player of the Year in 1984 and a four-time All-Pro selection. He finished with 32 interceptions.

YOUTH

From Page 28

January plum after clinching a title in a junior tournament in Australia. She joined the 2017 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga, Victoria and topped the consolation draw of the girls U14 singles event.

The 12-year-old Coume, who was with her older sister Conatsu in the same tournament, won her opening game in the main draw of the competition, but dropped her sec-

ond round match to fall to the consolation bracket. After that loss, the CNMI junior player went on to sweep her last four games to bag the championship in her group and matched Conatsu’s earlier title win in the consolation draw of the 2017 Margaret Court Cup that was also held in the Land Down Under.

The Kaga siblings, along with Ji Min Woo and Seung Jin Paik, are still off-island, as they are in Fiji for a training scholarship with the ITF/OTF Regional Training Facility.

FAMILIAR

From Page 28

year. Joining Thompson in the Top 10 are David Boyer (32:55), R.J. Pierce (34:56), Colin Thompson (36:53) and Caleb Wang (37:46), while other finishers were Carol Lynn Pierce (42:26), Alex Aldan (43:34), Adam Hardwicke (45:42) Chris Mojar (47:46), and Brad Ruszala (52:14).

Meanwhile, other top finishers in their respective races were Taiyo Akimaru, Jinie Thompson, Mark Jainier and Kaith Lynn Andrei Chavez,

and Jan Marini Milo.

Taiyo ruled the two-loop course after timing in at 28:34, while Jinie was the first female finisher in the same course and second overall following her 29:32. Dino Sato (34:43), Gemmilie Ann Eugenio (41:37), John Moreno (45:20), and Michael Hidalgo (52:11) also completed the nearly two-kilometer race.

In the almost one-kilometer swim (meek division), the Chavez siblings were the first finishers in the girls and boys categories with Kaith Lynn nosing out her brother Mark Jainier in the sprint to the fin-

Back on Saipan, Napu’s Boys Junior Team 1 took the monthly award for ruling the 1,500m and 500m races in last month’s 2nd Annual Timmy Would Go Memorial Paddle Classic held in the waters off Kilili Beach. The winning group is composed of Hekiko Helgen, Ryan Aguon, Brandon Cabrera, Sam Titulimar, Kyle Reyes, and Leon Laniyo.

The Jason Tarkong-coached team defeated its fellow Napu paddlers, Saipan Paddling Club, Mt. Carmel School, and Guatdan Tasi of Guam.

ish line as the former submitted 16:53 against the latter’s 16:54 in the one-lap race.

The third member of the Chavez family—Julie Anne—was fifth overall with her 18:52, while Savita Sikkell completed the Top 3 after registering 18:00. Other finishers in the one-loop course were Wataru Kadokura (18:22), Matthew Milo (21:19), Sanny (24:05), Scott (48: 19), and Moshe (24:57) and Richard (24:58) Sikkell.

In the shortest race of the day (200m), Jan Marini’s 6:04 bested the times of three other swimmers.

BEST

From Page 28

canto, while Oris made 8 consecutive.

However, Triple J failed to sustain its strong start with Inos and Oris not getting enough help from their teammates. Mortos, on the other hand, carried Best Deal/RNV on his shoulders in the second quarter after firing 13 points, while Rueda took over in the third, making up for his 4-point performance in the first half. The Best Deal/RNV point guard knocked in four triples in the penultimate quarter and scored 14 to move Best Deal/RNV within 4, 56-60, entering the final frame.

Meanwhile, GPPC and CTSI/D&Q recorded easy wins last week.

GPPC topped McDonald’s, 70-56, in last Thursday’s curtain-raiser, while CTSI/D&Q was awarded the victory via forfeit against Konstrak Builders.

GPPC pulled away in the second quarter as it held McDonald’s to 8 points, turning a 24-17 advantage to a 44-25 halftime lead. GPPC never

looked back from thereon for its second straight win after a 0-2 start.

CTSI/D&Q got its first victory in two games after only three Konstrak Builders players showed up for last Thursday’s second match. Konstrak Builders fell to a 0-4 record and is at the bottom of the team standings in Pool B.

Thursday Game

GPPC 70 – Mungcal 24, Ocampo 22, Sampang 7, Lagura 6, A. Tagle 5, Norial 4, Santos 4, Bandojo 2.

McDonald’s 52 – Mi. Achas 21, Macaranas 12, Gapor 6, Mc. Achas 4, Gaspar 4, J. Achas 3, Ayuyu 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-17, 44-25, 55-44, 70-52.

Friday Game

Best Deal/RNV 79 – R. Rueda 25, Mortos 24, Jumaquio 9, Alfonso 5, Baul 5, Cabalquinto 4, Odicla 3, J. Rueda 2, Corong 2.

Triple J 74 – Inos 26, Oris 23, Palacios 7, Obnimaga 6, Jarabe 6, Olopai 2, Patron 2, Geli 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-25, 35-42, 56-60, 79-74.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	18	.640	—
Toronto	30	21	.588	2½
New York	22	30	.423	11
Philadelphia	18	32	.360	14
Brooklyn	9	41	.180	23
Southeast Division				
Washington	30	20	.600	—
Atlanta	30	21	.588	½
Charlotte	23	28	.451	7½
Miami	21	30	.412	9½
Orlando	20	33	.377	11½
Central Division				
Cleveland	34	15	.694	—
Indiana	28	22	.560	6½
Chicago	25	26	.490	10
Detroit	23	28	.451	12
Milwaukee	22	28	.440	12½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	39	11	.780	—
Houston	37	17	.685	4
Memphis	31	22	.585	9½
Dallas	20	30	.400	19
New Orleans	19	32	.373	20½
Northwest Division				
Utah	32	19	.627	—
Oklahoma City	29	22	.569	3
Denver	22	28	.440	9½
Portland	22	29	.431	10
Minnesota	19	32	.373	13
Pacific Division				
Golden State	43	8	.843	—
L.A. Clippers	31	19	.620	11½
Sacramento	20	31	.392	23
L.A. Lakers	17	36	.321	27
Phoenix	16	35	.314	27½
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

MIBF Inaugural Men’s Outdoor League Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Ace Hardware's Brady Hammond, left, challenges the shot of Duenas Compound's Edwin Santos during their playoff game in the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's Outdoor League last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The Ol'Aces' Dan Barcinas, right, and 5 Star Construction's Angelo Fernando battle for the rebound.



Ace Hardware's Mike Babauta, center, tries to protect the ball from Duenas Compound's Matt Duenas, left, and Perry Inos.



The Ol'Aces Jack Lizama gets an open layup as Saipan Apparel's Ben Lisua is late on defense.



Saipan Apparel's Pete Lizama is up against the Ol'Aces' Joe Villacrusis, second left, and Freddie Pelisamen, right.



Ace Hardware's Ken Viray takes off for a layup against Duenas Compound's Douglas Schmidt.



Duenas Compound's Travis Eubanks goes up for a point-blank shot, while his teammates and San Antonio Patriot players look on.



San Antonio Patriots' Gerald Flores beats a Duenas Compound player for the rebound.



Whiteside,
Heat win 10th
straight,
roll 76ers

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Ryan, Falcons,
Cowboys big
winners on NFL
awards night

PAGE 25



28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Familiar winners in Meek and Mighty

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Swimmers expected to win in the 2017 SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim delivered in last Saturday's competition held in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club.



Kento Akimaru, who topped last year's three-loop race (mighty division), made it two in a row after completing the nearly three-kilometer swim in 29:26, which was faster than his 2016 time of 34:05. He finished ahead of 14 other swimmers who did the longest race of the day.

Jinnosuke Suzuki was the second overall finisher with a time of 30:07, beating his older brother and last year's runner-up Lennosuke Suzuki, who clocked in at 30:43. Last year's third finisher Christian Villacrusis dropped to fourth in the 2017 edition of the race after making it to the finish line at the 31:50 mark, while Taiga Sato rounded out the Top 10 following his 31:54.

Jinju Thompson was the first female finisher and No. 8 overall in the three-loop course after registering 34:58, which was better than her 39:10 last

See FAMILIAR on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Coume Kaga, seen here serving during last year's North Pacific Regional Championships at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts, was named NMSA/TSL Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Month for January.

Youth athletes recognized

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Young swimmer Juhn Tenorio, junior tennis player Coume Kaga, and Napu Outrigger Canoe Club's Boys Junior Team 1 were the recipients of Northern Marianas Sports Association's first monthly awards for the year.

Tenorio and Kaga were named NMSA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Student Athletes of the Month for January, while Napu's young paddlers took the Team of the Month award.

The Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmer was recognized for setting

two age group records in the boys 11 to 12 division during the Northern Mariana Island Swimming Federation Meet 4 held last Jan. 7 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The 12-year-old swimmer timed in at 1:13.67 in the 100m backstroke to shatter the nearly five-year mark of former Tsunami Saipan member Kaito Yanai, who registered 1:15.52 on Feb. 18, 2012. Tenorio's other record was also in the backstroke—50m—as his 33.14 seconds in the one-lap race surpassed the 33.56 seconds he himself posted on Dec. 3 last year at the NMISF Meet 3.

Coume, on the other hand, got NMSA's nod for the

See YOUTH on Page 26

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Best Deal/RNV Construction out-hustled Triple J in the closing seconds of the Pool A game in the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League to pull off a 79-74 win last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Best Deal/RNV had multiple possessions in the last 17 seconds of the match, with the first one coming after Ronald Rueda muffed a pair of charities. With the back-to-back misses, Best Deal/RNV's lead still stood at 2 points, 74-76, but Triple J wasted an opportunity to tie the match as it failed to control the ball when Felix Palacios' pass to Perry Inos was too strong. Rueda then picked up the loose ball and trooped to the

stripe anew, this time making his first charity for their 77-74 advantage, down to the last 12 seconds of the match.

Rueda faltered on his second free throw attempt, but beat Ian Obnimaga to the ball after a long rebound. Triple J was then

forced to give up another pre-emptive foul. Rueda went on to hit both charities to seal the deal for Best Deal/RNV, with 4 seconds left on the clock.

The victory was Best Deal/RNV's second straight after losing its first three games, while Triple J is still winless in four matches.

Rueda top-scored for Best Deal/RNV with his 25 points, 21 of them came in the second half. Andy Mortos also finished with 20-plus points after tallying 24, as he and Rueda brought Best Deal/RNV back into the game after the squad fell behind by 11 in the first quarter, 14-25.

Triple J seemed ready to take control of the match and end its losing skid when Inos and Aris Oris waxed hot early and handed their team a double-digit lead after the first 10 minutes of play. Inos had 10 straight points in the opening

See BEST on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Best Deal/RNV Construction's Ronald Rueda, left, is fouled by Triple J's Ian Obnimaga during the closing seconds of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.